The Helen Lawson Christmas Special

Someone mentioned this show in the thread about Judy Garland's Xmas special.

I have never seen it. Tell me, those who have seen the special, what was it like?

Who were the guest-stars?

What about the musical numbers?

I especially want to hear about behind-the-scenes gossip.

Is it true that a very drunk and high Neely O'Hara punched a security guard in her attempt to be admitted as a member of the studio audience? I can't even imagine why O'Hara would want to be there, given their history.

Neely was supposedly dragged off screaming, "Helen killed Christ! It wasn't the Jews. It was Helen!" Is that just an urban legend?

Also, were there other sponsors for the show other that Jack Daniels?

Thanx in advance.

—I can"t find the DVD. It"s always on back-order.

285 replies 12/14/2009

> Also, were there other sponsors for the show other that Jack Daniels?

Helenesque! and Silva Thins, of course.

—Anonymous

reply 1 12/14/2009

Oh, and that wasn't Neely, OP, it was Miyoshi Umeki.

—Anonymous

reply 2 12/14/2009

Pretty sure I remember a spot for AYDS diet supplement candies too.

—Anonymous

reply 3 12/14/2009

I remember that Helen sang "Santa Baby" as a duet with Charo.

—Anonymous

reply 4 12/14/2009

Helen blackmailed both famed choreographer Hermes Pan and dancer Tommy Rall into working on her infamous "Trim My Tree, Boys!" musical number after she caught them en flagrant delicto in Roddy McDowall's cabana. She threatened to expose them as pansies and destroy their careers.

Sadly, their involvement in Helen's show had the same effect.

—Anonymous

reply 5 12/14/2009

Wasn't it the first Xmas TV special to run for two hours?

—Anonymous

reply 6 12/14/2009

I designed her gowns. And some of the goings-on I saw...

I can't speak of it. Not ever.

—Edith Head

reply 7 12/14/2009

Longer, we missed the climax of the big fireworks/ watershow/ ice dancer finale when our local news finally broke in at 11:22 to do the weather before the Tonight show.

—Anonymous

reply 8 12/14/2009

Tell me more. My mother used to rave about that special. She died when I was vey young.

I can never seem to catch one of the re-runs.

—child of the late 80''s

reply 9 12/14/2009

> Neely was supposedly dragged off screaming, "Helen killed Christ! It wasn't the Jews. It was Helen!" Is that just an urban legend?

It's true. I actually saw the video. It was on You-tube for a few hours back in '07, but they made them take it down. The audio is a hard to make out, though. You pretty much have to lip read/rely on eyewitness accounts to make out what she is screaming.

—Anonymous

reply 10 12/14/2009

Wasn't Liberace one of the guest-stars?

—Anonymous

reply 11 12/15/2009

I remember Helen Lawson singing a tender Christmas ballad to her illegitimate son, Henderson Lawson, that drove everyone to tears.

—Old Fart

reply 12 12/15/2009

He was scheduled to be but the watermelon diet he was on left him so wrung out, he just didn't have the energy to wear the 200 lb rhinestone coat Helen wanted him to wear.

She wore it instead.

—Anonymous

reply 13 12/15/2009

No, Liberace was on HL's 1973 Valentine's Day special, "Helen Gets A Heart On!" With Paul Lynde, Raymond Burr, Anthony Perkins, Bert Convey, and Neil Sedaka. They all performed together in the final dance number, "How Lucky Can You Get."

—Anonymous

reply 14 12/15/2009

Didn't Helen get in trouble with the White House for saying something scathing about Nixon during one of her specials?

What did she say? It seems like it was cut from re-runs.

—Anonymous

reply 15 12/15/2009

Yeah back when Chesterfields were sponsors too... Peptobismol was also a sponsor- Xxam tree made out of the pink bottle one their early ad campaign coups on national TV. Helen toasted the New Year with JD then a jigger of the pink stuff. She always pulled on her cigarettes with such chic when she sang "Have Yourself a Merry Little Xmas".

—charlie

reply 16 12/15/2009

Here's a link to the "Baby, It's Cold Outside" duet between Cyril Ritchard and Liza Minnelli.

see offsite link on youtube.com

—Anonymous

reply 17 12/15/2009

Didn't Jack Cole and his chorus boys create a special version of "Tropical Heatwave" for this, with Helen flashing her skirts a la Monroe in the film version (in Theres No Biz like Show Biz) - unfortunately nobody checked to make sure Helen had put her underwear on before going on ....

THEN they found out that Helen was using the old Carmen Miranda stunt of keeping her stash of cocaine in her hollowed out high heels!

—Anonymous

reply 18 12/15/2009

Helen's Chesterfield sponsorship came back to haunt her. Her endorsement - "Chesterfields baby! These are the only ones that won't give you cancer!" - was enough to make her a defendant in the class-action lawsuits against the tobacco companies years later.

—Anonymous

reply 19 12/15/2009

The shampoo commercials were fabulous.

—Anonymous

reply 20 12/15/2009

Her 1973 Christmas special only ranks #3 on my list of all-time favorite Lawson TV specials.

Naturally, my top two are the 1974 one she did with Ben Vereen ("Hel's a Pippin!"--which was choreographed by Bob Fosse until he quit during blocking rehearsal-- and the ill-fated 1975 follow-up, "Ben to Helen BACK!"

—Anonymous

reply 21 12/15/2009

I remember hearing that Julie Andrews was furious about how she was treated by Helen Lawson during the rehearsals of one of Lawson's TV specials.

What happened?

—Anonymous

reply 22 12/15/2009

In the last Helen Lawson Christmas Special, Miyoshi Umeki confronted Helen about the drunken lies Helen had been spreading about MU and Debbie Reynolds. Helen emptied a bottle of JD and flung it at the gentle Miyoshi, who ducked just in time before the bottle struck little Brandon Cruz right in the noggin. Brandon's rendition of The Little Drummer Boy on Helen's show was a bit"off" that night as a result. Ah, those were the days

—Rose Marie

reply 23 12/15/2009

[R22], according to Julie's second autobiography ("A Spoonful of Sugar"), Andrews and Lawson had a falling-out over a musical number that Julie felt, "...was in exceedingly poor taste, even for Helen" (pg. 118).

Helen, it seems, had her pet lyricist, Lester "Tiny" Triggs, pen what Julie rightly viewed was a passively-agressively homophobic "tribute" to Bob Mackie, who was moonlighting from "The Sonny & Cher Show" to serve as costumer for the special.

But La Lawson won out, and if you are lucky enough to own the Criterion Edition of the VHS release, you can witness the cringe-worthy spectacle of Helen and Julie (as glammed-up versions of evil Disney stepsisters) singing "When you Swish Upon a Star," while giving an elaborate "magical fashion makeover" to a clearly mortified Mackie, in full Cinderella-at-the-ball drag, replete with a bugle-beaded corset(!) and size 12 glass slippers.

—Anonymous

reply 24 12/15/2009

Oh, you know how bitchy fags can be.

—Jennifer North in her palazzo pants

reply 25 12/15/2009

Thanks, [R24]. I always wanted to know the facts. LOL.

—OP

reply 26 12/15/2009

The main advertisers for that special were "Gee Your Hair Smells Terrific" shampoo and Glade's Christmas Tree scented room deodorizer. Helen was half in the bag and said "Gee your bush smells terrific!" and Kay Ballard, thinking Helen was hitting on her, responded "Yeah, well it smells like something crawled up your chimney and DIED!"

Things were very awkward after that and Glen Campbell refused to come out of his dressing room to sing his duet of "Evergreen" with Helen, so she sang both parts holding a finger under her nose like a moustache when she sang Glen's part, which she did in a lisping falsetto.

Joe Dante has said in interviews that he wrote the first draft of "Gremlins" shortly afterward and it was about a Broadway star who turns into a monster if you give it alcohol.

—Anonymous

reply 27 12/15/2009

> Things were very awkward after that and Glen Campbell refused to come out of his dressing room to sing his duet of "Evergreen" with Helen, so she sang both parts holding a finger under her nose like a moustache when she sang Glen's part, which she did in a lisping falsetto.

Helen's can-do attempt to salvage the number, BTW, caught the attention of Giorgio Moroder and Pete Bellotte, who persuaded her to cut a 12" disco remix of Campbell's "Southern Nights (Helen's Cornpone Club Mix)" for Casablanca Records. It became a cult hit and left Glen seething with jealousy.

—Anonymous

reply 28 12/15/2009

I'll never forget Paul Lynde singing "Santa Baby" to a group of inmates at Sing Sing (live via satellite).

—Anonymous

reply 29 12/15/2009

My Dad was a grip on Helen's 1973 special, "Christmas With Me".

One of the acts was the Vienna Boys Choir. Three of the boys disappeared for almost a week, and were eventually found in Helen's dresing room. They were catatonic, unable to speak and had what they call "dead" eyes.

It was never spoken of in our house, but every Christmas Eve my Dad locks himself in the garage for about an hour. All we can hear is "Why? Why?" Then he comes out and we have egg nogg.

—Anonymous

reply 30 12/15/2009

I'll never forget the review in "The New Yorker":

"The smell of death and decay was so thick. The heavy stink of a dying career filled my nose like so much rotten meat."

—Anonymous

reply 31 12/15/2009

Was it Peggy Fleming or Dorothy Hamill that Helen tried to run down with a Zamboni machine?

—Anonymous

reply 32 12/15/2009

It was quite rude of her to ask the former First Lady of the United States, "Is it true that Greek guys are into anal?" What did that have to do with celebrating the birth of Christ?

—Prudence Goodweather

reply 33 12/15/2009

Helen was worse than Bob Hope for milking those USO tours when she couldn't get any other work. Did you know she's specifically forbidden from "entertaining" captured prisoners of war by the Geneva Convention?

—Anonymous

reply 34 12/15/2009

I love you all.

—Really, I do

reply 35 12/15/2009

Lord, Miss Lawson got in a knock-down, drag-out fight with a loaded Liza Minelli during the 1974 Lawson Christmas Special. Liza was singing her part of their duet "I Shaw Three Ships A-Shailing In" and Miss Lawson, well into her third punchbowl of Helenesque ("It's a perfume. And a cocktail.") yelled, "Assume the position, Liza, the fleet's in!" and dropped onto her back with her legs spread wide. Of course, she wasn't wearing panties, and Liza was furious. She stopped singing, yanked Miss Lawson's wig off her head, screaming, "Cover that pusshy up!". It was broadcast live, but cut from any subsequent broadcasts.

—Anonymous

reply 36 12/15/2009

The Radio City Rockettes absolutely refused to work with after they were booked for her big '76 Christmas Special. The Rockettes were all in their line and Helen was to join them in the middle and every time they went to do their world famous high kick, Helen would fall down taking all the girls with her like a line of dominoes. Turns out her old trick hip would flip her backward when she raised her leg. She couldn't complain of course cause that trip hip got her very far in the biz if you know what I mean. And I think you do.

—Anonymous

reply 37 12/15/2009

Anyone remember her big USO Christmas show where Helen actually coined the phrase "Friendly Fire" when she accidentally shot Connie Stevens in the ass while a soldier was showing her how to shoot a rifle?

—Anonymous

reply 38 12/15/2009

Can anyone help me? I keep uploading the special to YouTube, but they keep deleting it. Should I try XTUBE instead?

—Gaye Gayerson

reply 39 12/15/2009

Oh bitches, you've done it again.

—Lawson, always worth the $18

reply 40 12/15/2009

The reason the shows have never put out on home video is that the rights were controlled by Helen's final companion, Sid Luft.

—Anonymous

reply 41 12/15/2009

Remember when Van Johnson did that number with Helen, and started camping it up? I thought the set was going to burst into flames.

—Anonymous

reply 42 12/15/2009

My favorite moment was the showstopper "Get Outta My Way Bitch-I Got a Man Waitin for Me."

This thread is hysterical. LOL!!!

—null

reply 43 12/15/2009

I loved it when the Jackson 5 showed up. Little Michael said Helen was his favorite actress in the whole world, after Liz Taylor!

—Anonymous

reply 44 12/15/2009

c

—Anonymous

reply 45 12/15/2009

> I loved it when the Jackson 5 showed up. Little Michael said Helen was his favorite actress in the whole world. . .

Wow, I never heard that! But you know, as soon as I saw one of those shots where his nose was falling off I thought, "Michael Jackson has gone from Diana Ross to Helen Lawson!" Of course the problem with Helen's nose wasn't plastic surgery, it was something she picked up while filming "Too Hot For Tuskegee" with Bill "Bojangles" Robinson and Louise Beavers.

—Anonymous

reply 46 12/15/2009

You know Miss Lawson was the one who sent Michael Jackson a Mr. Potatohead kit after those first pictures of him wearing a surgical mask hit the news media.

—Grytchyn, personal assistant to Miss Lawson

reply 47 12/15/2009

Christ--my Mom has a case of Helenesque in the back of her closet when I was a kid. One of my Dad's clients misunderstood an unkind comment Mom made about Helen at a cocktail party and sent it to her one Christmas. Apparently he worked for the Japanese company that marketed the stuff and they had plenty in a warehouse in Secaucus.

Mom said it smelled like whale oil and refused to wear it--ever. I had no idea you could drink the stuff. What a missed opportunity for one of my Brady Bunch/Partridge Family slumber parties.

—Anonymous

reply 48 12/15/2009

Of course, with all the '70's focus on Earth Day and the energy crisis, Helen was forced to sing "I'll Plant My Own Christmas Tree" and hated every minute of it.

—Anonymous

reply 49 12/15/2009

P.S.--If I can find it at Mom's storage locker, do you think I could sell the stuff on eBay? Would I be better off selling the entire case or one bottle at a time? I'd think the camel-toe shaped bottles would be very popular among the lesbians.

—R48

reply 50 12/15/2009

[R48], if I'm not mistaken, Helenesque has been banned for sale in the US since 1981.

—Anonymous

reply 51 12/15/2009

"Remember when Van Johnson did that number with Helen, and started camping it up? I thought the set was going to burst into flames."

Yes--Johnson & Lawson were supposed to do the duet arrangement of "Little Drummer Boy" but Johnson, apparently having shared eggnog with a Helenesque chaser with Lawson while rehearsing, started to change the lyrics--something along the lines of "Pump a dat rump rump".

Helen, never one to shy away from a challenge, soon had changed the song into a pedophiliac nightmare. I've heard one PA nearly fainted when she realized what was being sung, although that's probably an urban legend.

And that, kids, is the story of how David Bowie & Bing Crosby were paired to sing the arrangement.

—Anonymous

reply 52 12/15/2009

Wasn't there a skit with Sebastisan Cabot as Santa & Helen as Mrs. Claus that ended badly when, after a coterie of elves entered the scene, Helen began screaming, "Midgets! There are fucking midgets on the set!"?

—Anonymous

reply 53 12/15/2009

And Chuck Berry had to be cut from the special because they found the hidden camera he'd put in the ladies' toilet. Helen sang something about "no watchee us taking dumps, chump" to Chuck to the tune of "Little Drummer Boy" during rehearsal.

Then she slung a shit-bra at him.

—Anonymous

reply 54 12/15/2009

[R50], Helenesque contains whale blubber, or rather distilled blubber, a whale liqueur the Japanese were trying to get past through US Customs at the time. Each cask was aged for 28 days with one of Helen's snubbed out cigarettes to give it that distinctive smoky odor.

Helen was not the only victim of this Japanese scam to export their whale liqueur in the US. Cheryl Ladd's signature scent, "Cheryl!," was another and its tag-line "It smells like Cheryl" was, of course, the inspiration for DL's "Cheryl, your pussy stinks!"

—Six Degrees Of Helen Lawson

reply 55 12/15/2009

Remember when HL pissed off the entire King family bacause she introduced them as "The Stepfords" on her live 1975 Christmas special?

—Anonymous

reply 56 12/15/2009

Anyone recall "The Great Opening Credit Disaster" that nearly lost CBS its broadcasting license? Helen was scheduled to include a skit in her 1974 Christmas Special that also featured Alan Sues, Joann Worley, Arte Johnson, Harvey Korman in drag as "Mrs. Clausen" (Santa's monster-in-law), and a nude Burt Reynolds, whose naughty bits would be covered strategically in mistletoe.

Renowned TV director Marty Passetta had designs on a young Bob Fosse-esque chorus boy, who was blessed with a generous bulge in his elfin tights that nobody could seem to conceal with any amount of padding, therefore leaving said bulge to upstage HL during what was supposed to be her show-stopping number that closed the skit: "Yule Love The Logs On Christmas Day." Enraged beyond belief, Helen made sure that the young upstart was soundly gang-banged by several burly stagehands in a secluded, unused dressing closet backstage, thereby rendering him indisposed and no longer able to make the appearance that director Passetta had wrangled for him, hoping to get him into the sack.

Infuriated when he found out what Helen had done, Marty took his revenge when he cued up the opening credits for the skit: "Count Your Blessings."

And made sure that the "O" in "Count" was clearly absent.

Copies of show including the sabotaged credits are still available, but tough to find.

—Don Normann

reply 57 12/15/2009

Don't forget, it was Helen's rendition of "We Need a Little Christmas" on her WILD AND WIGGY HOLIDAY WING-DING of 1971 that inspired Lucille Ball to take on the role of Mame Dennis.

Lucy mentioned this quite frequently in press and TV interviews prior to the film's opening. But when the ruinous reviews for MAME came out Helen sent Gary Morton a two-page telegram threatening, among other things, to "throttle that tangerine-headed twat with her own rubber chinstraps if she ever so much as whispers the initials H.L. in conjunction with that cinematic stillbirth again."

—Anonymous

reply 58 12/15/2009

Well Reply 58 how did you think Lucy broke her leg right before principal photography began on "Mame"? Did you actually believe that cockamamey skiing accident story? Tonya Harding had nothing on our Helen.

—Anonymous

reply 59 12/15/2009

> The reason the shows have never put out on home video is that the rights were controlled by Helen's final companion, Sid Luft.

Where do you people get this stuff? It's a well known fact in Hollywood that the reason the shows aren't on home video is because there are no tapes. When NBC canceled her specials contract, Helen was so incensed, she snuck into the tape vault to steal the masters. Little did she know that the lethal combo of her gin soaked breath and lit cigarette in the hermetically sealed controlled environment would cause instantaneous combustion. Poof up like a March Christmas tree. Why do you think she had no eyebrows?

—Anonymous

reply 60 12/15/2009

[R58], was that the same special with the Make-a-Wish kids decorating the Christmas Tree for Helen? I hear it was absolute bedlam on the set for that number when La Lawson noticed one of the tykes placing a Hallmark limited edition Neely O'Hara ornament on the tree. Never to be outdone by Neely, Helen struck up the band with a rendtion of "I'll Trim My Own Tree", kicking the poor sick kids in their asses and blowing Chesterfield smoke in their cancer-riddled faces while doing a hip shimmying dance number.

On the plus side, the media firestorm was the first to point up the dangers of second-hand smoke.

—Anonymous

reply 61 12/15/2009

Or the time Helen invited Frances Farmer on the show to read "Ye Virginia, There is a Santa Claus" just so poor Frances could keep her health insurance through the Actors Guild.

In the middle of her performance, Farmer suddenly, and without warning, divereted from the cue cards and began rambling something about during rehersals seeing Helen bent over the Baby Jesus' manger getting her chimney stuffed by a stagehand's Yule Log.

Helen leapt up off the couch from the fake living room set, smashed her champagne flute against the end table leaving only the jagged stem, and emerged from the shadowy background towards Frances screaming...

"I'll make sure THIS lobotomy takes you crazy CUNT!"

—Anonymous

reply 62 12/15/2009

> was that the same special with the Make-a-Wish kids decorating the Christmas Tree for Helen?

Yes, that's the one. However, abusing sick children wasn't as big a scandal back then as it would be in today's overly-sensitive culture. The real controversy came from the fact that this was the first network special to substitute the neutral word "Holiday" in its title for the more religion-specific "Christmas."

It was not, as you might think, the predictable hordes of angry Evangelicals who took offense. Rather, CBS was bombarded with phone calls from irate Jews, Buddhists, atheists, Muslims and Hindi demanding that the network make clear that Helen Lawson (born Mary Martha Shaughnessy O'Brien McMurphy McCurdle MacBride) was in fact a product of the Christian faith and that it was perfectly all right with them to be made to feel excluded from her particular blend of seasonal cheer.

—R58

reply 63 12/16/2009

> Was it Peggy Fleming or Dorothy Hamill that Helen tried to run down with a Zamboni machine?

It was Janet Lynn!

Gotta tell you all, I am the originator of "Helenesque" on the original Helen Lawson thread. And for all of you to reference it here...well, I'm as proud as could be!

—Anonymous

reply 64 12/16/2009

It is true that Helenesque was banned for sale in the US by the Food and Drug Administration in 1981. It turned out that the alcohol content of Helenesque was a staggering 160 proof and several people lost their vision when they drank it as a cocktail. Curiously, Helen - who drank Helenesque daily, as it was her cockatil of choice - never suffered any adverse health effects.

A massive class-action lawsuit was being put together against Helen and Coty Fragrances, Ltd. until Helen's attorney and, um, "boyfriend" at the time Roy Cohn made a few calls to the Justice Department and the whole unpleasant mess mysteriously disappeared.

—Anonymous

reply 65 12/16/2009

Helen's 1975 Christmas special, "Santa Claus Is Coming To Helen Lawson," almost didn't make it on the air due to an insensitive remark Helen made during rehearsal. Helen swept onto the stage - half in the bag on Helenesque, as usual - and exclaimed "Are we shootin a goddamn Christmas special or a salute to Spring, 'cause all I see are pansies bloomin everywhere I fuckin look!" Choreographer Michael Bennett and 2/3 of the chorus walked off the set in disgust, never to return.

"Santa Claus Is Coming To Helen Lawson" was broadcast, but without any musical numbers, making it Helen's lowest-rated Christmas special ever.

—Anonymous

reply 66 12/16/2009

This thread is worth being drummed right out of $18.

—Booze and dope

reply 67 12/16/2009

One of the guards at my sister's Catholic reform school taught her to shave her legs and armpits with Helenesque. The stink used to drive my mother crazy. When she got out, my sister ran off with a lesbian motorcycle club and we didn't hear from her for almost fifteen years. Do you think they used the scent as some kind of secret signal?

—Anonymous

reply 68 12/16/2009

My mom used to use Helenesque to strip the wood floors before she waxed them.

And, if you know the right people, there are copies of ALL of Miss Lawson's Christmas specials out there.

—Grytchyn, Miss Lawson"s P. A.

reply 69 12/16/2009

Least we not forget the brouhaha back in '77 when the network censors wouldn't let her sing the holiday disco song she wrote called "Yule Logs and Christmas Balls". She was not happy, and let's just say it wasn't a Merry Christmas for those network suits that year.

—Anonymous

reply 70 12/16/2009

I remember some rumor about Helen and Sinatra getting caught in a compromising position back-stage during one of the rehearsals.

Frank supposedly told friends that Helen's vagine was "drier than an AA meeting".

Helen retaliated by referring to him as "cocktail Frank".

—Anonymous

reply 71 12/16/2009

Not only that, but that was to be a roller disco song, a la "Xanadu". Network execs were worried that Helen wouldn't be "in her prime", their euphemism for her state of consciousness between her 3rd and 5th bottles of Helenesque (or whatever booze was handy) that day.

—Anonymous

reply 72 12/16/2009

Helen Lawson and Michael Landon carried on a multi-year affair. They were both very boisterous and their drinking contests were legendary. On his many appearances on her Christmas specials, cameramen had to remember to shoot him from the chest up, as he favored tight pants that left little to the imagination. Helen fondly referred to him as "kickstand" or "tripod" when the child actors were around, and much more sexually explicit names when the kids were off set.

—Anonymous

reply 73 12/16/2009

This thread is my favorite Christmas special

—Wit & Wisdom for everyone!

reply 74 12/16/2009

[R73], you forgot Helen's infamous quote: "You can all tell Michael here doesn't celebrate Christmas with one look at the front of his goddamn trousers!" The switchboard at CBS lit up like the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree after that little remark.

—Anonymous

reply 75 12/16/2009

"I remember some rumor about Helen and Sinatra getting caught in a compromising position back-stage during one of the rehearsals.

Frank supposedly told friends that Helen's vagine was "drier than an AA meeting".

Helen retaliated by referring to him as "cocktail Frank"."

My father was a stagehand for this show, and he swears he saw them both, standing very close together, during a commercial break, Frank whispering in Helen's ear and Helen yelling out, "I choke on small bones!" Dad says he never saw anyone turn so purple, so fast, as Sinatra did.

—Anonymous

reply 76 12/16/2009

I remember that Helen was supposed to sing a duet of "Feliz Navidad" with Jose Feliciano. Apparently, Helen had one-too-many drinks during rehearsal (yeah, I know, duh) and kept flubbing the Spanish verse. Jose, trying to be kind, suggested that she stick to the English verse.

Well, Helen wouldn't have it. She snapped, "If my gardener and my maids can speak the damn language, how hard could it be?!"

Helen has always denied that this ever happened. My uncle, who was one of Helen's stylists, swears that it's true.

—Anonymous

reply 77 12/16/2009

I have some inside dish on Helenesque. Helen never actually drank the stuff. She privately referred to it as "putrid cunt juice." Even when taping the ads for Japanese television, her glass was always filled with vodka died blue to look like the product.

She approved HSQ (as her business manager always called it) as a perfume to be sold only in Asian markets and trusted the advice of her Japanese partners as to the fragrance for those markets. She thought it smelled like the Futon Fish Market the morning after one of the New York and New Jersey Fishmongers Guild's infamous "Binge 'til You Cringe" drinking contests which she rarely missed.

As usual, Her lawyer was hired for his cock not his negotiation skills, and the contract was appropriately loose, allowing the Japanese to market the product world-wide to her fury. (That man never practiced law again outside of Wyoming.)

The sale of the product as a liqueur was entirely an afterthought when sales of the fragrance were disappointing. The bulk of the product was ultimately quietly unloaded on the people who distributed Ripple. It was marketed as "Tattered Rose Fortified Wine" to customers who didn't much care about taste.

—Anonymous

reply 78 12/16/2009

Bette Davis once showed me the cigarette burn scars from her ill-fated 1963 appearance and duet of "I've Written a Letter to Santa" with Miss Lawson.

—Kathryn Sermak

reply 79 12/16/2009

To make for having to cancel her appearance at 1974's "Love-In for Betty Hutton" at NYC's Riverboat Restaurant, Helen invited Betty to appear on that years Christmas Special to give her not only a little publicity, some much needed cash, and what Helen felt everyone needed - self confidence. The pair were to perform a medly from "Annie Get Your Gun" with the entire cast appearing in the grand finale number "No Business Like Show Business".

Unfortunately, Hutton never made it past dress rehersal when Lawson began copulating with the stuffed prop horse during "Anything You Can Do". Helen totally misunderstood the director's suggestion she "mount" the stallion. Betty ran from the stage and locked herself in her portable dressing room refusing to come out. An enraged Lawson began repeatedly ranting about "get Garland, I'm sure she needs the work AND already knows the words" until the assistant prop master informed her that Judy had died five years previously. (He was immediately terminated and blackballed from the industry. Shortly thereafter committed suicide by mixing pills with his Limited Edition Holiday Gift bottle of Helenesque Lawson paid each of the show's employee's with.)

A little trivia. The horse from the ill-fated production was the actual "Trigger" from all those Roy Rogers Westerns.

He's now on display at the Roy Rogers-Dale Evans Museum in Branson Missouri with just light stain from Lawson's vaginal secretions on his underbelly. You have to look really close and the guides will totally deny the incident ever happening if you ask.

—Anonymous

reply 80 12/16/2009

My mother had the soundtrack albums to all her specials on 8-Track. Hearing Helen's "The Little Bell Tinkles" always brought tears to my eyes at the holidays.

—Anonymous

reply 81 12/16/2009

Ummm, [R79], I truly believe Bette Davis could whup Helen's ass like no other. Take it from one who knows.

—null (Joan Crawford)

reply 82 12/16/2009

Cracking up at I've Written a Letter to Santa.

—Anonymous

reply 83 12/16/2009

Didn't Helen have some grudge against Steve and Edie after they appeared in one of her Xmas specials?

What was that all about?

Steve and Edie always seemed to be so easy-going and easy to work with.

—Anonymous

reply 84 12/16/2009

"A massive class-action lawsuit was being put together against Helen and Coty Fragrances, Ltd. until Helen's attorney and, um, "boyfriend" at the time Roy Cohn made a few calls to the Justice Department and the whole unpleasant mess mysteriously disappeared"

Did Helen steal Roy from Barbara Walters?

—Anonymous

reply 85 12/16/2009

[R85], Barbara has never forgiven Helen to this day. Barbara thought Roy was her "last chance" at marriage and happiness, and blames Helen and her trick hip for taking it all away. And she still insists that Roy died of liver cancer. So sad.

—Anonymous

reply 86 12/16/2009

Oh, please. As if Roy Cohn had any interest in Helen's trick hip. They were business partners. Roy would sic Helen on his political enemies.

—Anonymous

reply 87 12/16/2009

save

—Anonymous

reply 88 12/16/2009

Anyone know the line-up for this year's show?

I've heard rumors that Helen will appear with Jay-Z and sing the Alicia Keys portion of "Empire State of Mind."

And does anyone know why Madonna refuses to appear year after year?

—Anonymous

reply 89 12/16/2009

Roy Cohn used to come to my grandfather's poker game every now and then. One time he brought Helen. Not only did she drink a bottle and a half of Johnny Walker Black in less than hour, but one of my grandmother's Baccarat candlesticks disappeared that night. From then on she referred to Helen as "that woman."

—Anonymous

reply 90 12/16/2009

OK... someone who knows... is the urban legend true about her blowing Bowie and Crosby under the piano when they were taping their duet for "Little Drummer Boy"? I know she was having a little fling with Bowie in the 70s (what turned him off ladies for a while, actually) but I just can't imagine Crosby letting her put her mouth on his dick after what he caught Helen doing with her mouth in Rosemary Clooney's dressing room when they were filming "White Christmas."

—Anonymous

reply 91 12/16/2009

Helen?

Offsite Image
i45.tinypic.com

—Anonymous

reply 92 12/16/2009

> Didn't Helen have some grudge against Steve and Edie after they appeared in one of her Xmas specials?...What was that all about? Steve and Edie always seemed to be so easy-going and easy to work with

Well you're not getting the story out of me because I know Helen well enough to know if she knew I spilled the beans, she'd pull the IV slow drip of Helenesque out of her arm, from her semi private room at the Hollywood Retirement Home, Cucamonga branch and crawl on her belly to wherever I am, to stab me in the eye with the drip needle. And that's if she's in a good mood.

—Anonymous

reply 93 12/16/2009

It wasn't her Christmas special but during the early 80s she almost set the Cold War on fire during the taping of her "Hotter Than Helen" comedy and music special. Helen had demanded that Yakov Smirnoff be included in the cast because she thought he could get her case discounts on Vodka. (He did lead her on about that.) She discovered it was a lie and attacked him with Gallagher's giant sledge-hammer right in the middle of the show and delivered a anti-Russian rant that blistered ears from Washington DC to the Kremlin, calling them "Godless cocksuckers" and "pussies" she could drink under the table.

Unfortunately this was right after Reagan was caught on tape threatening to nuke Russia so it turned into an international incident. Reagan was actually quite fond of Helen because in the 1960s she removed a bothersome kidney stone that had been giving him problems and even had it mounted on a ring, showing it off while telling the story and always finishing with "Nancy may be able to suck the chrome off a trailer hitch, but my mouth can heal the lame!" So Reagan refused to denounce Helen's speech.

Things did calm down again eventually though in the 90s some ex-KGB agent claimed they poisoned Helen with polonium but she didn't even cancel any performance of "Fingers In The Air," the Helen Keller musical she was starring in at the time as Annie Sullivan.

—Anonymous

reply 94 12/16/2009

Someone, please tell me why Helen grew to hate Steve and Edie. There must be someone out there who doesn't fear Helen's wrath like [R93].

By the way, [R93], I respect your wanting to avoid bodily injury. I've heard stories about what she can do to the people close to her who refuse to "keep their goddamned traps shut", as she would say.

I remember one of her tirades on Letterman a few years ago. I was in the studio audience.Dave prodded her for some gossip which enraged her, she called him a "baby-fucking asshole" and ended up biting his ear. After that, she kicking Paul Shaffer in the groin when he laughed. I was surprised that Letterman ended up dropping the charges.

But someone else needs to fill me in on the Steve and Edie story. I know that it was more than a rumor.

Thanx.

—Anonymous

reply 95 12/16/2009

All I know about Lawson and Steve and Eydie is a vague rumor about a menage a trois between them that went horribly wrong. And something about Lawson accusing them of being government spies. They were on the receiving end of her shit-bra on several occasions.

—Anonymous

reply 96 12/16/2009

[R94], I knew you'd be the person to ask about that rumored feud she stoked with Raisa Gorbachev. Can you share, pretty please?

—Anonymous

reply 97 12/16/2009

Regarding the horse story, Helen loved to tell people that that horse was "hung like Landon".

She was devastated when he died. And the coffee enemas he claimed were cancer treatments were really just a faster way to get caffeine in his system. He felt like he needed it to keep up with Helen.

—Anonymous

reply 98 12/16/2009

As for the mystery above... All I'm saying is it might or might not have involved an early version of Roofies, stolen sperm and a cyrstal covered Bob Mackie steamer trunk, but you didn't hear it from me.

—Anonymous

reply 99 12/17/2009

Sadly, the Christmas Special Helen did with guest stars Tallulah Bankhead and Doris Day was never broadcast due to the chaos that occurred at the taping. Even though Helen hired Tallu for the show, it was common knowledge that she still seethed with rage over losing the part in "The Little Foxes" to the Southern belle.

Their ill-advised opening number "A Sailor for Christmas" got off to a poor start when Helen "accidently" tripped Tallulah as she made her entrance sending Tallu tumbling face first into the on-set Nativity scene.

Picking herself up and sputtering with rage, Talluah was out for blood. At this point, Doris tried to change the mood by brightly adlibbing to Tallu that "Jesus wants you for a moonbeam" which caused horrified gasps of terror among the Teamsters on the crew as they scrambled for cover. She hurled Doris into the elaborate prop Christmas tree, whirled around and bellowed "Bring me the Cow of Canarsie!" except she used another c-word, not cow. Now as we all know, Helen was very sensitive about her roots.

She was livid and screamed back "I hired your gin-soaked tits for this gig and I can fire you and send you back to working the docks!"

The resulting brawl destroyed the entire set although no injuries were reported; both ladies were too smashed to land many punches. Amid it all, with her "Show must go on" attitude Doris sang a touching "Silent Night" that was only periodically drowned out by crashing pottery and backdrops.

At the end, as they say, there wasn't a dry seat in the house.

—Anonymous

reply 100 12/17/2009

> Their ill-advised opening number "A Sailor for Christmas" got off to a poor start when Helen "accidently" tripped Tallulah as she made her entrance sending Tallu tumbling face first into the on-set Nativity scene.

Yes but that "trip" was payback. Back in the '50's Helen was to present the Best Supporting Actor award at the Golden Globes. As she was being introduced Tallulah incensed that Helen was wining and dining Ida Lupino to try and get a part in her new woman's prison picture "Escape from Estrogen Island", made sure Helen was out of the running. So splat Helen goes, knocking out her teeth. Tallulah of course thought it was water under the bridge, but as anyone who knows Helen, though she may never remember a damn thing, she never forgives. She couldn't complain of course because her lack of teeth along with that trip hip got her very far in the biz if you know what I mean. And I think you do.

—Anonymous

reply 101 12/17/2009

Back in the sixties Helen Lawson starred in an all-female version of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," with herself as Mrs. Scrooge, of course. Unfortunately, Lawson insisted that the producers hire Aretha Franklin, Gladys Knight and Diana Ross to play the three Christmas ghosts or, as Helen called them, the "three Christmas spooks." Helen then made matters worse by insisting that Aretha, Gladys and Diana share one dressing room. Nothing came out of it but another canceled Helen Lawson special, a few injured divas, and a City of Detroit ordinance banning Helen Lawson from that city for life.

—Walter Windshield

reply 102 12/17/2009

DL bears take note: Helen Lawson was a closet chubby chaser.

Prior to Helen's affair with Michael Landon, she was widely (pardon the pun) rumored to be fucking a girthier Bonanza cast member: Dan Blocker. If memory serves, right before Helen's '68 special went on the air, Loretta Young busted her in Dan's dressing room with her head up the bottom of his Wise Man's robe. Even as late as the Swinging Sixties, Loretta insisted on bringing her hated "cuss box" to the set of whatever project she was working on, but this time she blackmailed Helen—though never much known for her ability to be ashamed or embarrassed, she thought it just wasn't classy to be publicly linked to a fat guy—into donating an unheard of $1.5 million to Jerry's Kids.

—Anonymous

reply 103 12/17/2009

Surprised nobody has mentioned the major controversy that involved Cardinal Cushing of Boston threatening Helen with excommunication over the '69 Christmas special in which she sang "Love Child" dressed in full Virgin Mary garb.

Though Helen was hardly a practicing Catholic, she did realize that the controversy was threatening the contract she had with CBS for the annual Christmas specials. Nobody how she shut Cushing up, until a recent Freedom of Information Act lawsuit against the Church revealed Cushing's notes from a meeting with Helen in which she threatened to expose the fact that "your pansy priests are sucking every pre-pubescent prick in this town!" Helen was on to the Church sex-abuse cover-up years before the mainstream media.

—Anonymous

reply 104 12/17/2009

Just like Lawson's specials - some of these are gems and some are real shit stains.

—Anonymous

reply 105 12/17/2009

It's true that Helen had no love for Bette Davis but she did like Joan Crawford, mainly because Crawford was one of the very few people on Earth who could match Helen drink for drink without succumbing to alcohol poisoning. One evening after Helen was leaving "21" after a marathon 100-proof Smirnoff drinking session with Joan, she was heard to remark "That bitch is alright, I don't care if she beat the fucking shit out of those kids!" That was high praise, coming from Helen.

—Anonymous

reply 106 12/17/2009

Helen Lawson was never one to shirk from discipling children. Some of her suggestions, for instance, the shit-bra, seemed a little extreme, but she recommended improvising with whatever was close at hand.

—Mrs. Patsy Ramsey, formerly of Boulder, CO

reply 107 12/17/2009

I want more stories, ya half-pints!

—Anonymous

reply 108 12/17/2009

bump

—Anonymous

reply 109 12/17/2009

Is it true that once when Helen and Joan were drunk, they dropped their panties and compared clit sizes? Supposedly each was boasting about how large and penis-like her clit was, so they decided to find out. I never heard who won.

—Anonymous

reply 110 12/17/2009

SO WHAT!!! You all enjoyed every goddam second of those Christmas specials.

I know you did the ratings were through the roof!!!

Because I'm a trouper baby!

That's right.

A pro.

I've got the goods.

Always have.

Nothing wrong with the Christmas spooks idea.

NOTHING!!!

Bring me a goddam drink.

Where the hell is my glass?!?!!

—Helen Lawson

reply 111 12/17/2009

> And does anyone know why Madonna refuses to appear year after year?

Yeah, the truth is that Madonna is the same age and knows that Helen will call her out on it.

—Lourdes

reply 112 12/17/2009

Ya know, I stopped wearing panties back in the '50's, bitches. Easier access, baby.

—Miss Helen Lawson

reply 113 12/17/2009

My late grandfather (born 1900) once told me that a "Cleveland Steamer" was originally called a "Helen Lawson Special." This must have been the 1920s or 1930s.

—Anonymous

reply 114 12/17/2009

Helen insisted on wearing a halo of mistletoe so she could grab anyone she wanted to kiss. She got a little too friendly with Susan Dey, the actress playing Laurie Partridge on the TV show "The Partridge Family" when the cast of that show was supposed to be on Lawson's Christmas special.

All the Partridge family reunion talk over the years has been fueled by Lawson, wanting another chance with Dey. Dey's retreat from show business is her attempt to distance herself from Lawson. She only did "L.A. Law" after the network assured her that Lawson would be medicated by the in-house veterinarian, since "people drugs" weren't effective on Lawson any longer.

—Anonymous

reply 115 12/17/2009

LOL, [R114].

In order to translate for the whippersnappers, I have provided the following link with a definition of "Cleveland Steamer".

Cleveland steamer - Wiktionary
en.wiktionary.org

—Anonymous

reply 116 12/17/2009

She didn't like the chocolates that were left in her dressing room. She called them Farmer's Fanny chocolates

—Anonymous

reply 117 12/17/2009

LOVED her duo with Sebastien Cabot singing, "I saw Mommy kissing Santa Claus" bit I think having the Smothers Brothers dressed as elves was a bit much.

—Anonymous

reply 118 12/17/2009

I always laughed when I heard how Helen sabotaged the line of plus-sized clothing that she reluctantly agreed to promote. She was never a plus-size woman, but the manufacturers figured that someone of the stature of Helen Lawson could make larger women feel better about their shape.

After the commerciala started flooding the airwaves, Helen was asked about it on live TV while on the red carpet fat one the award shows. She replied so smugly, "Yeah, well, they decided that "Goodyear" didn't sound so good on the label."

—Anonymous

reply 119 12/17/2009

I remember the Gospel medley Helen did with Tony winner Linda Hopkins and the L.A. Mass Choir. Helen held her own and then some!

—Anonymous

reply 120 12/17/2009

I heard that Linda Hopkins HATED Helen, but I never knew the specifics.

—Anonymous

reply 121 12/17/2009

There was some tension after their sexual encounter -- Helen always was a closet dinge queen -- but Linda was just a little too earthy for Helen's taste.

—Anonymous

reply 122 12/17/2009

> I remember the Gospel medley Helen did with Tony winner Linda Hopkins and the L.A. Mass Choir. Helen held her own and then some!

Her own what?

—R. Nylund

reply 123 12/17/2009

[R119], which plus-size women's clothing line are you referring to?

TRUE Lawson fans know that there were two: the original ("Diane von Hindenburg") was a huge success in Europe. A pair of poly-blend culottes from the Spring '75 line fetches upwards of 700 euros on eBay, even if they're used.

The second line was an ill-fated attempt to curry good favor with the African-American community after she "jokingly" appeared in hastily-applied blackface on an episode of "The Tony Orlando & Dawn Variety Hour," leading Telma Hopkins to quit in protest.

Helen chose her 1978 ABC special with Little Richard ("Let's Put the 'Mo Back in Motown!") to introduce her collection for full-figured urban gals, dubbed "Three Times a Lady." I only remember this because my mother, a rather large Minnesota Lutheran of Norwegian extraction, used to draw murmurs of envy when she'd show up at Friday Fish Fry wearing the tribal-print jumpsuit with the plunging decolletage and the daring sideslit.

—Anonymous

reply 124 12/17/2009

I remember when Helen invited the Brady Bunch (during their singing and dancing "Brady Bunch Hour" year/a few months) in hopes of apealling to younger audiences whom she hoped would become future viewers.

When the Bradys finished singing their version of "Incense and Peppermints", Helen called Robert Reed over from the group and said to him, with no trace of irony, "The gossip around Hollywood is that you fuck men. I can't believe it. If it were true I would fuck the gay right out of you."

Helen, drunk as always, was just lucky that her special was taped in advance. The studio audience thought it was both shocking and hilarious, BTW, according to crew members who happened to be friends of my late mother.

—Anonymous

reply 125 12/17/2009

I was going to ask "Is it true that Helen self-submitted a blackface screen test for the Mo'Nique role in PRECIOUS?"...

but then I couldn't remember whether in this alternate reality we've created over the years, Helen Lawson is supposed to be alive or dead? Could someone clarify?

—Anonymous

reply 126 12/17/2009

Helen Lawson will never die, [R126]. Never.

—Anonymous

reply 127 12/17/2009

> Helen, drunk as always, was just lucky that her special was taped in advance.

Lucky? What network executive would allow Helen on live television after the 1969 incident?

—Anonymous

reply 128 12/17/2009

[R96]

I heard it wasn't a menage at all, but a fourgy involving Sammy Davis,Jr. at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Things got out of hand when a flagon of Helenesque tipped over. Helen was smoking one of her favorite gauloise cigs while being DPed by the boys and dropped it following an extremely potent thrust. As the flames flared, Helen barked at Eydie "Drop and Roll you fat fuck!" Instead Steve withdrew and grabbed Eydie and a sheet and ran. Poor Helen and Sammy ended up on the FBI's infamous celebrity miscegenation list. Lawson mistakenly thought Steve and Edie were government spies sent by Hoover to destroy her career.

This story is the only reasonable explanation for Helen's charge onto the stage during the following year's Oscar Awards, as Steve and Eydie were performing a medley of that year's nominated songs. Screaming "No one DPs Helen and leaves Baby!" she headbutted Steve and was just grasping Eydie's Pucci inspired chiffon caftan as she was pulled offstage. Even Bob Hope was speechless!

—Anonymous

reply 129 12/17/2009

Helen Lawson has always been one of the rare homophobes with an impeccable gay-dar. For her 1973 Christmas special, "Helen Lawson's Far-Out Christmas Love-In," two of her guests were David Birney and Meredith Baxter from "Bridget Loves Bernie." Helen introduced them and then quipped, "Bridget may love Bernie but David Birney loves a bulldyke! What ladies softball team did they steal YOU from, butchie?!"

Meredith Baxter recently acknowledged that Helen's constant heckling behind-the-scenes helped drive her further into the closet for the next 35 years. Most shocking was Helen's prank of rolling Meredith's lipstick in pubic hair and yelling, "Like it's the first time you had pussy hair on your lips, you lezzie!" in front of the cast and crew when Meredith complained. All these years later she teared up when she talked about it on The View.

—Anonymous

reply 130 12/17/2009

So DID Helen and Meredith ever bump cootchies?

Could it be Helen that inroduced her to the joys of sappho?

Meredith certainly wouldn't be the first starlet that Helen brought into the fold.

—Anonymous

reply 131 12/17/2009

> Helen Lawson is supposed to be alive or dead? Could someone clarify?

There is that rumor that Helen died in the late 1960s and has been portrayed by a series of drag queens and pre-ops ever since.

—Anonymous

reply 132 12/17/2009

Well she certainly has dropped out of public view, but then so has Jennifer Jones.

—Anonymous

reply 133 12/17/2009

[R129], that jibes with what I heard, except Sandy Duncan was also involved and Helen upset her by pretending to fix in hair in the reflection from Sandy's alleged glass eye. So Duncan left before the sex started.

—R96

reply 134 12/17/2009

I truly wish Jackie Susann was still around. She would have LOVED these threads.

—Anonymous

reply 135 12/17/2009

Link please

—Anonymous

reply 136 12/17/2009

> Well she certainly has dropped out of public view, but then so has Jennifer Jones.

And Miss Jones has about another six feet to go.

—Anonymous

reply 137 12/17/2009

Jackie Susann would be a regular contributor to the Helen Lawson threads, and Datalounge in general. She would have loved this shit! I can see her sitting in front of her pink Mac, smoking cigs and downing vodka while she laughed her ass off.

—Anonymous

reply 138 12/17/2009

> She would have loved this shit! I can see her sitting in front of her pink Mac, smoking cigs and downing vodka while she laughed her ass off.

Honey, you just described half the boys here.

—Anonymous

reply 139 12/17/2009

I'll never forget the 1998 special where poor Lena Zavaroni was forced to sing "Ma! He's Making Eyes at Me!" to a stage full of men in trenchcoats and sunglasses. Before she got to the final verse, she screamed and ran into the audience. Helen had to complete the song.Poor Lena died less than a year later.

—Helen Bedde

reply 140 12/17/2009

Okay, here's the poop on Helen and Edie. After discovering Steve and Helen in flagrante delicto, Edie sneaked into Helen's dressing room and shit in one of Helen's wigs.

In retaliation Helen took a dump in one of Edie's bras.

So now you know. Helen was responsible for the original shit bra, which Michael Landon was later to use to great advantage in his otherwise dreary drama, "Little House on the Prairie."

—Anonymous

reply 141 12/17/2009

That Lena story reminds me of one about Pia Zadora.

Pia Zadora's much older millionaire husband was trying to buy his wife a career, and he paid off a string of boy and girl toys threatening Ms. Lawson's reputation. Helen o made the deal, which required her to host a two woman special, a la Julie and Carol. Pia's off key shrieking and spiritless dancing were more than Helen could take. Helen arranged for the biggest latino stage hands, hung with huge uncut cocks, to frequent the backstage area outside Pia's dressing room. Pia, a notorious cuckolder, spent most of the rehearsal time writhing on the men. Helen invited Ric backstage for a few drinks, and listening to the moans and cries echoing in her dressing room said "Ric, no pussy that easy should cost so much! I should know." Pia's enraged husband burst in on his wife, and they left for Israel immediately.

Helen, never without resources, called upon her old drinking buddy Maria Callas to fill in. I wonder if any of you saw that thrilling show?

—Anonymous

reply 142 12/17/2009

Dominique Dunne was supposed to be a guest for Helen's 1982 Halloween special, "Scary As Helen," where she was to reprise her Poltergeist role alongside Heather O'Rourke and Zelda Rubenstein in a sketch. When Dominique was attacked the day before the show Helen really impressed the cast and crew by insisting they cut the skit and do a heartfelt tribute and give wishes for her recovery with Heather and Zelda at the end of the program. Unfortunately one of the running gags was that Helen was a sexy witch who kept taking swigs of "brew" throughout the show and of course that brew was really Helenesque.

Thank God there was a tape delay (by then CBS had been burned too many times) because Helen staggered onto the stage, practically dragged really by the much shorter Heather and Zelda, and announced "that goddamn chef Dominique Dunne's been dating choked more than his chicken last night but don't you worry 'cause that motherfucker will get his. He'll be in prison taking it up the ass in no time!" When Heather O'Rourke burst into tears Helen yelled, "cut the shit you little yellow bitch, 'cause everybody knows you're just trying to get an inside line on her kidneys!" CBS instead closed the show with a still picture of Dominique and and a get well message, though someone forgot to turn the microphone off so viewers were treated to the sounds of Helen being wrestled off the stage by security.

—Anonymous

reply 143 12/17/2009

[R143]'s post reveals a little-discussed fact about Lawson's reputation with the networks. You'll note that her 1978 special, "Let's Put the 'Mo Back in Motown" ran on ABC, and by 1982, she'd already been punted to CBS for "Scary as Helen." What many people forget is that during the intervening years, she was banned from NBC (at the behest of Standards and Practices) after only one Christmas special, 1980's "Hel's Bells! It's Christmas!"

Fred Silverman had trotted out all of NBC's biggest and brighest talents to guest-star: Erin Gray, Garett Morris, Jimmy McNichol, Yarnell (Shields cancelled two hours before taping, citing "personal issues), Pink Lady & Jeff...and countless others.

A clearly drunk Lawson kept the network censors busy that night, but the following gems still made it on air that night:

* A skit in which Helen, batting her lashes coquettishly, claims that she was lured into a gangbang by all three Magi: "Come, they told me!"

* A number featuring Helen as the perpetually horny reindeer, Vixen, promising Rudolph: "You'll go down in history, but I'll go down anywhere!" and purring to Blitzen, "I want to you stuff me like an only child's stocking."

* A blatantly homophobic sketch about an elf-suited serial killer on the loose in West Hollywood, entitled "Slice Up the Fruitcake!"

Several big-time sponsors (La Choy, Love's Baby Soft and Modess) pulled their ads, and the re-edited version that appears on Lawson's "best-of" holiday compilation DVD ("Hey Santa! Slide Down My Chimney!) has a total running time of only 11 minutes.

—Anonymous

reply 144 12/17/2009

> La Choy, Love's Baby Soft and Modess

I just peed.

—Anonymous

reply 145 12/17/2009

LOL [R144]!

—And She saves the thread

reply 146 12/17/2009

God, my folks still about her 1972 holiday special where she played "Arlene Bunker" in a parody of "All in the Family." It was supposed to be a lively debate about Christmas, but Helen just stood on the edge of the set and - she says she was just in character- said, "Fags, dykes, queers, n*****s, spics, micks, hebes, spades, jungle bunnies, coloreds..."

Then the screen went black and one minute later, "Heidi" was being broadcast.

—Anonymous

reply 147 12/17/2009

I remember her 1999 duet with Ricky Martin about Y2K when she went off-script and sang "Why you gay?"

Martin blushed but acted as if it didn't happen.

—Anonymous

reply 148 12/17/2009

I love you, DL. You complete me.

—Anonymous

reply 149 12/17/2009

Helen was supposed to be a part of Rankin-Bass' stop-action TV special "The Year Without Santa Claus" as Mrs. Claus, but when she saw how frumpy ("fuckin' dowdy" is how she called it) they made her character, she went nuts. She ranted about how it was bad enough that they made her look like a fat Doris Day, but to have to suffer working with Mickey Rooney(she called him a "preverted little prick with breath that smells like ass) and "those 2 flamers playing the brothers" was just too much.

Helen lurched around the recording studio, insulting one and all, finally passing out on the sound board. Luckily, Shirley Booth agreed to come in on such short notice, and, with minor modifications to the character, became Mrs. Claus.

That wasn't the first time Lawson and Rooney clashed. Their hatred for each other was legendary.

—Anonymous

reply 150 12/17/2009

I remember when Olivia Newton-John appeared in one of Helen's Xmas specials. Helen took a cheap shot by saying that most of the guys in the pit band would love to take a look at her "down under".

Supposedly, without missing a beat, Olivia responded to Helen with the "greatest retort in unscripted television history" (according to Rex Reed).

What did Olivia say? Do you really think that it was unscripted?

I have always wanted to know about the retort, but nobody I know has ever seen the Xmas special in question. I heard about the "notorious retort" via Christian websites and naturally, none of those posters ever said what the remark was. All they say is that everyone should boycott anything with Olivia's name on it.

— a former Dominionist who broke his betrothal by admitting he liked cock

reply 151 12/17/2009

Didn't she have Mel Gibson on one year?

—Anonymous

reply 152 12/17/2009

ONJ is not one to be trifled with. Everyone loves her, loves to work with her, but if you cross a line with her, she'll let you know. And she doesn't take crap from anyone, including Helen Lawson.

—Anonymous

reply 153 12/17/2009

"Didn't she have Mel Gibson on one year?"

Vice versa. She was on Mel Gibson one year. She told him she understood why he was Catholic and believed in immaculate conception, because his "dick was so small there's no way that'll fit into a woman and get her pregnant".

—Anonymous

reply 154 12/17/2009

LOL, [R154]. I always wondered why Helen always referred to him as "that little prick". Now I know. Apparently, Helen wasn't commenting solely about his anti-semitism.

—Anonymous

reply 155 12/17/2009

Do you guys think that you have done justice to my career? You haven't even scratched the surface. Although,I hafta confess, this thread is pretty accurate.

Tell me what else you remember about me. I'm still the best fucking performer that you're ever going to see!

Watch me on CBS on Sunday night! I'm gonna kick ass! They wouldn't dare cut away from my three-hour special because I've still got dirt on the Tisch family (do they even still own the network? LOL, I couldn't care less.)

Lady Gaga and I are going to sing a duet of "Just Dance (with Helen)". Also, I'm going to get jiggy with Jay-Z. I Always did like the colored guys for reasons that I'm sure you can relate to, LOL. And I'm sure that you can, faggots. God, I love you fuckers!

—Helen

reply 156 12/17/2009

Helen, are you going to do a tribute to the dearly departed Michael Jackson on your show? I know he was such a great friend of yours.

And Adam Lambert better be there!

—Anonymous

reply 157 12/18/2009

I always loved how Helen would open each and every one of her specials. The orchestra would swell, the spotlight would hit Helen standing center-stage and then Helen would deliver her signature line - "It's me baby! Helen Lawson! Now let's put on a show!" It was all so glamorous, and that's when I really knew I was gay.

—Anonymous

reply 158 12/18/2009

The Mel Gibson stories reminded of the great episode of The Dame Edna Everage show where she had Mel Gibson in the sauna and went in to search for his lethal weapon !!!!!

That was also the show where she turned away Jane Fonda who turned up in tracksuit (it was the era of her fitness videos) ... so funny.

Of course the Dame and Helen had a long rivalry that went way back - Helen was very miffed that Edna was getting bigger names on her shows and also highed ratings! AND Edna had a gay son Kenny to design those gowns ... which only a demented queen could create.

—Anonymous

reply 159 12/18/2009

My $18 has been repaid many times over. Thank you for the lovely Christmas memories, DL.

—Lois Carmen DeNominateur

reply 160 12/18/2009

"That wasn't the first time Lawson and Rooney clashed. Their hatred for each other was legendary."

It all started during the filming of "Breakfast at Tiffany's". Helen was cast as Noreen Oakleigh, a down on her luck former Rockette who struggled to make ends meet working part-time at Tiffany. She had one touching scene with Audrey Hepburn during which their characters discussed their love of Tiffany & men who were bad for them. (Helen was amazingly fond of Hepburn, although she was known to say, "If that bitch doesn't scream lousy lay, I don't know who does.")

Blake Edwards asked George Axelrod to create a romance between Norren & Rooney's character, Mr. Yuinoshi. The morning after receiving the rewrites, Helen burst onto the set, dragged Rooney out of his dressing room & over to where Edwards was standing & began screaming that "I'd sooner fuck a can of La Choy chow mein than this fake gook."

Rooney, in an attempt to lighten the moment, casually suggested that Helen head back to his dressing room so she could taste his teriyaki.

Helen declined by slapping Rooney across the face, knocking his prosthetic dentures loose & Rooney accidentally swallowed them. Filming was halted for two days as Rooney had emergency surgery to remove Helen called those "goddammed chink choppers".

Hasty rewrites eliminated her character, but if you look closely at the party scene, you can make her out in the crowd, usually toward the back & in the shadows. Look for the redhead who seems to be frequently dropping something, as urban legend is she fellated most of the male extras during the takes of the party scene, even the ones pretending she was George Peppard. Later, she would boast pridefully boast to intimate friends that she was the first to swallow in a major Hollywood release.

To this day, if you say the name "Helen Lawson" to Rooney, he winces. But, if he's had a few beers, hell show you the scar on his stomach from his denturectomy.

—Anonymous

reply 161 12/18/2009

A lot of people don't know this, but Helen Lawson is the reason why networks have Standards and Practices departments.

It all started in 1947 with Helen's very first Christmas special "Hark! I Hear A Helen Angel Sing!", which was broadcast in Kinescope on the DuMont network.

It was a disaster from the word go, when Helen introduced her first guest Audie Murphy - "You're gonna love this next kid. He killed a lot of Japs in the war. Ain't that right, Audie?" Things went from bad to worse with Helen's second guest Lucille Ball - "You're a real funny broad, Lucy. What's it like being married to a spic?"

The next day, DuMont created Standards and Practices in response to public outrage.

—Anonymous

reply 162 12/18/2009

More, more!

—One of the lesbians

reply 163 12/18/2009

Remember when Helen got religion and claimed to be "born again"? Her Christmas special that year had a lot more religious content but somehow she managed to offend Jews, Catholics, and practically every protestant religion. When the Quakers send you death threats you know you've crossed the line! I just saw the first musical number where she sang "Oh Christ I'm Pregnant" dressed as Mary with The Four Tops as the four(?) Wise Men. (Her sequined habit with the slits up the side was much more Mary Magdelene than Virgin Mary.) After that my mother not only turned off the TV but unplugged it and put it on the porch with a crucifix on top so I didn't get to see the rest. I've always been curious what the rest of the show was like. Supposedly there are bootlegs out there but some silly urban legend got started in Japan that if you watch it you'll die a week later, so it's really hard to find.

Right after that show aired Helen's mother (Vonda? Ephie?) wrote a letter to the NYT apologizing for giving birth to Helen the first time.

—Anonymous

reply 164 12/18/2009

Whatever happened to Christina Lawson, Helen's adopted daughter?

—Anonymous

reply 165 12/18/2009

While Christina Crawford always knew where to find the boys and the booze, [R165], Helen-Christina Lawson (note the legal name) always knew where to find the dykes and the drugs.

—Aela Rogers St-Johns

reply 166 12/18/2009

Last I heard, Christina was going by the name Tina Twelvetrees. I can't remember anything else, more was posted in the "Favorite Helen Lawson Show" thread.

She really resented being forced to appear on all those Christmas specials.

—Anonymous

reply 167 12/18/2009

You bitches are killing me. More please!

—Anonymous

reply 168 12/18/2009

Due to their two Top Ten hits, Richard and Karen Capenter were booked for Helen's 1970's Special "I'm the Christmas Star, and Don't You Forget It Baby Jesus" to premiere "Merry Christmas Darling" and sing a medley of Christmas Carols with Lawson.

The latter segment was to be performed while sitting in a garland bedecked vintage sleigh with the obligatory fake falling snow, dressed in period Victorian attire.

Due to her costume, and height of the set, Helen was atop a step-ladder when she looked down at the already seated brother/sister pair.

Suddenly realizing that the fit would be very uncomfortable, and already five cups into her special "Heleggnog", she abruptly blurts out "I'm not getting in there until one of us loses some weight, and I ain't talking me or the fairy piano player."

At which point she hiked up her left leg onto the edge of the sleigh, lifting her dress and exposing her dried, moldy figgy pudding thisclose to Karen's face.

Already nervous of Lawson, Karen loses all composure, pulls herself up and almost lays across Richard as she hangs her head over the side of the sleigh and begins to spew foamy white bile that momentarily sat atop the cotton batting snow, before the heat from the lights vaporized it.

And well, we all know the rest of the story...

—Anonymous

reply 169 12/18/2009

Just one of many, [R169]. You must know that once a Helen Holiday Extravaganza is over, she immediately starts planning the next one. From what I hear, last June Helen finalized the plan for this year's show. She had already made contractual agreements with Lady Gaga, Jay-Z and Michael Jackson. Michael was a real coup for her, but she had something on Joe Jackson, so Michael couldn't refuse the offer.

Well, Helen had a trick up her sleeve before the ink was even dry on the contract. Michael was presented with a script for his portion of the show, a lively rendition of "All I Want for Christmas Is You", to be sung around an enormous Christmas tree with children under the tree wrapped in ribbons and bows. Imagine poor Michael's shock when he discovered all the children were to be GIRLS!

The rest is tragic musical history...

—Anonymous

reply 170 12/18/2009

Speaking of Michael Jackson... when Helen was asked her thoughts on his death, she said "It's a goddamn shame, is what it is. When you think of all the kids who were touched by him, and now there are so many kids he will never be able to touch because of that wacko doctor and that propofol, or whatever the fuck it was he was gettin shot up with."

Helen apparently didn't realize how the "touched kids" part of her quote could have two meanings, and it briefly became the top story during Jackson's death coverage.

—Anonymous

reply 171 12/18/2009

Michael Buble and Adam Lambert will take the place of Wacko Jacko in the next Helen Lawson Holiday Special.

—Anonymous

reply 172 12/18/2009

Actually [R170], I believe [R169] was referring to the beginning of Karen's anorexia.

—Anonymous

reply 173 12/18/2009

I don't think the full behind-the-scenes story has ever been told, but David Hasselhoff's drinking problem started right after appearing in Helen's 1984 special "Helen Back To Save Christmas." The framing plot of the show was that Santa (Wilford Brimley) was too weak after Helen gave him "some sugar" so she enlists David and Kit, the car from Knight Rider, to deliver presents.

The show aired on Dec 19th and on Dec 20th David Hasselhoff was found passed out in a puddle of his own vomit, naked as the day he was born and covered in motor oil. Supposedly Kit's antennae was poking out his rear but that part might be legend.

The sponsors that year were Jiffy Lube and Chess King clothing stores, who supplied David's wardrobe.

—Anonymous

reply 174 12/18/2009

[R63], Helen Lawson was NOT Irish. She was born Helen Schwabenbauer in Minot, North Dakota. Because of anti-German sentiment during the First World War, her father changed the family name. Why he changed it to "Hitler" I'll never know. She became Helen Lawson after her first marriage to Chicago bootlegger Seamus "The Walleye" Laughlin. After Laughlin died following a shootout with police (oddly, not anything Prohibition-related; it escalated over a dirty joke about Little Orphan Annie), Helen Laughlin went to New York and became Helen Lawson. That's probably where you got the Irish thing from though.

—Anonymous

reply 175 12/18/2009

I heard that when Hasselhoff was being loaded into the back of the ambulance to go get his stomach pumped, he kept muttering "goddamn Helenesque...bitch made me drink it...wouldn't take no for an answer...called me a pussy till I finally gave in and drank it..." over and over.

—Anonymous

reply 176 12/18/2009

Did y'all hear that Vinny from Jersey Shore is gonna be a special guest this year? MTV thought they would be generous and give him a TV appearance since Pauly, Snooki, and The Sitch keep getting all the good spots. Poor kid better wear a chastity belt.

—Anonymous

reply 177 12/18/2009

[R177], stop trying to make Jersey Shore happen.

—Anonymous

reply 178 12/18/2009

The idea that Helen is going to have a Christmas Special this year is absurd. She hasn't been seen in public since the first Bush administration after than altercation with the First Lady. To be fair to Helen, Bar did look like a man.

—Anonymous

reply 179 12/18/2009

Fun fact: When former DC mayor Marion Barry famously said "Bitch set me up!" when he was busted on camera smoking crack, he was talking about Helen.

—Anonymous

reply 180 12/18/2009

Christmas specials! Christmas specials?? C'mon does no one remember when Helen was going to have that summer replacement series back in the 70's? First show, she was rehearsing a big beach disco number "Disco Inferno".

So there she is in the studio blocking the number with special guests Gladys Knight on one side and Marylin McCoo on the other. Of course the guest stars were in their tasteful Bob Mackie designed one piece swim suits. Helen naturally "the star" insisted on the smallest bikini the censors would allow.

One problem, Helen, who has been called the whitest white woman in the history of white women felt she was being washed out. This of course is way before the invention of spray tanning so she did what was all the rage and slathered herself with Baby Oil and Iodine.

Now on taping day, just as they got to the chorus of "Burn, Baby, Burn",the combination of dancing and overheating herself, plus the Baby Oil and intense studio lighting and whoosh! Helen went up like a Roman Candle at the Bicentennial. The studio audience thought it was a fabulous special effect but luckily the quick stage hands, who always had a waiting fire extinguisher ready whenever Helen was around, were quick to put her out. She sustained only first degree burns but it was over her entire body except for the tiny areas the bikini covered but she was one huge blister for the rest of the summer and her show was canceled.

—Anonymous

reply 181 12/18/2009

That's right, Hall-Pint, I did look like a lobster for a while, but so what? Since then I've never had to worry about hair removal.

Grytchyn, bring me another fucking drink! The pitcher's empty! How many times do I have to tell you to keep this thing full?

—Miss Helen Lawson

reply 182 12/18/2009

Miss Dakota Fanning is scheduled to be a guest on this year's Helen Lawson Christmas/Hanukah/KwanzaaGanza - . When Helen was looking over the talent list, she was overheard to remark about Fanning, "That girl reminds me of me."

—Anonymous

reply 183 12/18/2009

I overheard from somebody working on this years extravaganza that Ms. Lawson was heard to say, "So which one should I have on my show? That gay vampire with the bad teeth or the fag werewolf with the flat nose?"

—Anonymous

reply 184 12/18/2009

People--No one is really sure whether Helen is alive. By her own admission, she'd be over 85 is she is. The truth is probably closer to 110. There is no Helen Lawson Christmas Special this year.

—Anonymous

reply 185 12/18/2009

[R185], why would you kill off a fictional character when we're having so much fun? Are you trapped in an Edward Albee play?

—Anonymous

reply 186 12/18/2009

Helen lives forever, [R186]; but not in high definition. Think of the children.

—R185

reply 187 12/18/2009

While it's true that Helen refuses to advance along with HD technology, she still refuses to use a vaseline-smeared lens, or other cloaking technology like others (Striesand, Cybil Shepherd) do.

And Helen has alluded to her secret to staying young: she credits regular activity (wink), and Helenesque. However, rumor has it that "Death Becomes Her" was based on the never-seen autobiography of Helen Lawson.

—Anonymous

reply 188 12/18/2009

Anyone else remember the year Robert Conrad insisted on duetting with Helen on "Jingle Bells" while he wore a red, fur-trimmed Speedo and Santa hat? Helen couldn't keep her eyes off his crotch and kept singing "jingle balls" and 3 of the network censors were sent to the hospital with stress-related heart attacks.

—Anonymous

reply 189 12/18/2009

When former CBS Television President Jim Aubrey was once asked by a jounalist why he kept greenlighting Helen's Christmas specials every year even though she was such a nightmare to work with, he replied: "That vile red-headed cunt has all the warmth of battery acid and a red-hot poker shoved straight up my ass would be more pleasant to deal with, but goddamit if she doesn't kill in the ratings! As long as her Christmas schtick gets CBS #1 in the Nielsens, I'll put up with her crazy drunken mentally ill bullshit for one week out of the year."

—Anonymous

reply 190 12/18/2009

I just saw the TV promo for Sunday's special. How the hell did Helen make it onto ABC Family network?

I can only imagine what Bible Belt viewers are going to be saying.

—Anonymous

reply 191 12/18/2009

Sunday's special will be a HEAVILY edited version. The unedited version will be broadcast live (I know, haven't the networks learned by now?) via pay-per-view. I guess they figure that those that want to see everything will be willing to pay for it.

Lawson was in the building when Tim McGraw "auditioned" for this year's special, said audition consisting of the inspection of Tim's privates. Helen said, "Nope, he doesn't measure up, why do you guys always stick me with the ones who can't stick me?" and strutted out of the "audition" room.

—Anonymous

reply 192 12/18/2009

Of course Helen was responsible for discovering and nurturing talent. The network went into a tailspin when her summer replacement show was suddenly canceled. While the President of the network was in Helen's smoke filled ICU room trying to get her to sign the insurance waiver the studio lawyers forgot to get get signed before the taping, under the guise it was an autograph for his Mother in law, he told Helen how many people wanted her time slot. Of course after the "Honey, people wanting my slot ain't nothing new!", she told him he should get that "that midget wop and drag act that opened for me in Vegas last year", and he did! The rest is history but don't dare speak of it. A certain ungrateful star never thanked Helen in her Oscar speech but Helen got her revenge when she posed as that certain star, now a superstar's agent and got her booked for a hair care informercial that sidelined her career for years.

—Anonymous

reply 193 12/18/2009

Gimme More! Gimme more!

—No, I"m not Britney, but I love,love,LOVE Helen!

reply 194 12/18/2009

I'm too young to remember the details, but what exactly happened on the set of one of Helen's Christmas specials that made her a guest of the LA county sheriff's department for the night? It was a big story at the time (see link) and I do remember something about a case of Helenesque being set on fire and igniting an entire soundstage at CBS studios, but I'm fuzzy on the rest of it.

Photobucket
media.photobucket.com

—Anonymous

reply 195 12/18/2009

NEELY O'HARA!!!!!!

—Anonymous

reply 196 12/18/2009

I don't know about that, [R195], but it's a well-known by insiders that Helen lobbed a bottle of Helenesque at Vic Morrow on the set of The Twilight Zone Movie because she thought he was taking off with two of her workers before they finished sewing all the sequins on a dress she had copied from Bob Mackie. Tragedy ensued, but it turned out that her workers Cheng and Eng had just run to a First Aid clinic when they accidentally sewed themselves together. Miss Lawson's dress was finished on time as always.

—Anonymous

reply 197 12/18/2009

The local PBS station in Burlington Vermont is playing the 1967 special "Around the World in 80 Ways starring Miss Helen Lawson" this weekend for pledge weekend. This was the ill-fated reunion between Helen and Ethel Merman where Helen accidentally set Ethel's hair on fire and then tried to put it out with her snifter of Helenesque, Tequila, and Goldschlagger. Ethel's ten year old daughter Varla Jean tried subbing for her mother, but Helen wouldn't hear of it. "Get that bastard brat offa my stage! If I wanted a novelty act, I'dda brought in those damn choir boys again!

—Tova Borgnine

reply 198 12/18/2009

I just saw the second TV promo for Sunday's special. It's different from the first. In this second promo, she's shot in profile and she dramatically turns her head toward the camera. She then says, "I'm having Jay-Z on Sunday. I hope that you'll all be watching (wink).

It's amazing what she can get away with.

—Anonymous

reply 199 12/18/2009

Helen, Helen, Helen--it's not pronounced "jizz."

—Anonymous

reply 200 12/18/2009

[R198], didn't Ethel Merman's daughter Varla Jean have an infamous run-in with Lawson about ten years ago? I remember that it made Page Six. I was out of the country at the time (in the Australian outback, where there were no newspapers). I have never been able to find the article in question.

Please, please fill me in. I love Varla Jean, after Helen, of course.

—Anonymous

reply 201 12/18/2009

Yes, [R185], there is a Helen Lawson. She exists as certainly as Unfiltered Lucky Strikes and Broadway and Bacardi 151 Rum exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be DataLounge if there were no Helen Lawson! It would be as dreary as if there were no Lesbeaus or Kirkers. The eternal bitchiness with which DataLounge fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Helen Lawson! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the liquor cabinets and little Black boys on Christmas eve to catch Lawson, but even if you did not see Helen cumming, what would that prove? Nobody has seen Helen Lawson for years, but that is no sign that there is no Helen Lawson. The most real things in the world are those that neither fraus nor straight men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course, but that's only during the White Party.

No Helen Lawson! Thank God! she lives and lives forever in a few well written storylines. A thousand years from now, [R185], nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, she will continue to make her Annual Christmas Special.

—Anonymous

reply 202 12/18/2009

Marry me, [R202].

—Anonymous

reply 203 12/18/2009

On the old Ed Sullivan show which was live on Sunday nights, they would have big celebrities in the audience and Ed would introduce them. Well in the 60's, Helen being the fashion icon that she was, was front and center and wearing the latest fashion sensation, The Mini Skirt. So there we are right in between Italian puppet Topo Gigio and Broadway's Theodore Bikel singing "If I Were A Rich Man" from "Fiddler", Ed introduces the glamorous star of stage and screen, Miss Helen Lawson! Well, as the camera flashed a shot of Helen, let's just say Helen flashed a shot of Helen too.

—Anonymous

reply 204 12/18/2009

I wish this were on Youtube, but there exists video footage of Helen sober. Yes, you read that correctly. Helen had no alcohol in her bloodstream for exactly seven minutes back in 1987 and it was caught on tape. Whoever owns that tape could make a lot of money. Helen has never revealed the circumstances that caused her to have seven whole minutes of sobriety.

—Anonymous

reply 205 12/18/2009

A friend of mine worked on the crew of "Silver Spoons" for most of its run. He once told me a story involving Helen and a then 13-year old Ricky Schroder. Helem had been cast as "Ida Stratton" Ricky's crazy great-aunt. It seems as though Ricky had a "ritual" 90 minutes before each taping to relax his nerves. He would retreat to his dressing room and proceed to pleasure himself to an 8 x 10 of Erin Gray in a very tight unitard. That afternoon the producers treated Helen to lunch. Well a couple of hours later the clams and the liquor began working some magic on Helen. Not knowing the layout of the studio, and being drunk as hell, she thought she had stumbled into the bathroom. Well she was wrong, she had stumbled into Ricky's room. AS she climbed onto the bed she stated "Why is this goddamn toilet so high?" Let's just say Ricky never set foot in the room again and supposedly did not pleasure himself again until years of therapy revealed his repressed memories.

When I told another friend about this he said the other guy was a liar. It's a true story except that it was on the set of "The Patridge Family" and it involved Danny Bonaduce and a "secret" picture of Susan Dey. And this event is what started Bonaduce on his path of self-destruction.

Can anybody shed some light on which is true? Or could both be true?

—Ronan Barrett

reply 206 12/18/2009

LATE BREAKING!

Entertainment Tonight has just announced that Helen will team up this Christmas Eve in a 2-hour extravaganza televised special from Las Vegas with newly crowned superstar SUSAN BOYLE!

Yes. It will be called "Boyling Over the Christmas Tree" and is expected to shatter all previous viewer records.

You didn't hear it from me, but reliable sources tell me the finale will be the first live televised lesbian wedding in history.

Could it be that Helen has found love at last?

—Anonymous

reply 207 12/18/2009

My favorite Helen Lawson moment was when she was named one of Barbara Walters "Most Fascinating People" back in 1989. I was on the production side of the news back then and EVERYBODY was talking about what a great "get" this was for Barbara because, despite her legendary career, Helen Lawson hadn't done any in-depth interviews, or at least interviews where you could understand what she was saying.

After the debacle of her last special, "Rhymes With Awesome: Christmas Rappin' With Helen Lawson" where they were trying to bring Helen to a more "urban" audience, her management was trying to rehabilitate Helen's image and got her to agree to the interview. Back then if you got into trouble you didn't go into "rehab," you went on Barbara Walters and cried and then everything was forgiven. And Barbara was crowing all over town about how she was gonna reduce Helen to tears and finally show everyone "the real Helen," that poor sad little girl from Canarsie.

As soon as Barbara asked why Helen had agreed to perform with Public Enemy and 2-Live-Crew if she was just going to call 911 and claim she was being held hostage by The Black Panthers and beg them to bring in a SWAT team, Helen screaming Barbara was "high yella" and the interview went to hell. Before it was all over Barbara was sobbing and begging for the camera to be turned off. That was right before Helen released her album "WWA: Whitey With Attitude" which reached number 9 on the Billboard Urban and Rap chart.

—Anonymous

reply 208 12/18/2009

Correction: The album was called "LWA: Legend With Attitude" and the song "Big Booty Siren" hit #2.

—Anonymous

reply 209 12/18/2009

I think it was about 1957. Coty was launching the Helenesque beauy line and she was doing personal appearances at Goldblatt's throughout the Chicago area. It was timed to coincide with her "Christmas At The Home With Helen" CBS spectacular featuring Giselle McKenzie, Julius La Rosa, and Ish Kabibble.

The hook at Goldblatt's was that with any purchase of a Helenesque product and a parakeet, you'd get a personally autographed picture and a chance to say hello to the great star.

My Grandmother was a huge Helen Lawson fan. We got up early, took the train downtown, and weren't too far back in line. My Grandma knew I was a Helen Lawson fan too. We'd watch "Sun Valley Scheherazade" with Adolphe Menjou over and over again.

I was young, but as we approached the table where Helen was signing I thought something was wrong. First of all, the lady in front of started to cry. Secondly, there were a lot of parakeet feathers in Helen's hair and in the corners of her mouth.

Some lady from the fragrance counter then sprayed my Grandma with Helenesque, hitting her in the eyes. I shall never forget her shrieks of pain.

My Mom and Dad eventually retrieved us from Goldblatts. Grandma did well at the Center for the Blind. But I never got that parakeet I wanted. I'm convinced to this day that Helen ate it. So I am no longer a fan.

—Anonymous

reply 210 12/18/2009

Am I the only one who remembers the 1975 holiday show almost never happened? Two weeks earlier some idiotic booking agent made the mistake of asking Miss Lawson to appear on "The Tonight Show" the same night as Diana Ross, then amidst promotions for her film "Mahogany." Although Miss Ross nearly stormed off the set upon hearing that she would be the second guest to come on stage that night, after Miss Lawson, both managed to enter and share the stage peacefully until Carson made the mistake of mentioning "say, I heard a wacky rumor, Helen, that you actually had a role in 'Mahogany.' That can't be true, can it?"

Actually, it was: Miss Lawson played the role of Miss Ross's mentor in the fashion business, Edith Neville. After three weeks of filming, the producers were excited enough about the footage to start spreading a rumor about a possible Oscar for Best Supporting Actress! This, however, did NOT fly with Miss Ross.

So she got Helen fired. It took some creative editing, but her role was excised from the final cut entirely, and the footage was burned. Rumors of how she accomplished this task were legion (most people, myself included, simply assumed she was still sleeping with the film's director, Berry Gordy), but apparently the subsequent fight was what first spawned the phrase "I will SNATCH your weave!", and the film's makeup artist had to VERY carefully mask Miss Ross's black eye for the rest of the shoot.

Getting back to "The Tonight Show": Miss Ross went ashen when Carson asked the question. Miss Lawson paused only briefly, bolted a sip of her Helenesque-doctored coffee, and said "Johnny, I'd sooner have Neely O'Hara as a co-star than this frizzy-haired uppity n***** hag!"

Suffice it to say, it was her last appearance on "The Tonight Show" -- or any NBC show, for that matter. The only reason CBS aired her '75 holiday special was because Carson's people pulled out EVERY stop to make sure nobody outside the studio ever heard the remark. They aired a rerun in its place that night, and rumors of the comment somehow never their way to CBS executive headquarters.

—Anonymous

reply 211 12/18/2009

I heard a rumor that Sandra Bullock will be appearing on Lawson's Christmas Special this year. Can anyone confirm?

—Anonymous

reply 212 12/18/2009

"Miss Lawson paused only briefly, bolted a sip of her Helenesque-doctored coffee, and said "Johnny, I'd sooner have Neely O'Hara as a co-star than this frizzy-haired uppity n***** hag!"

Well, this is a surprise--that she would use that word--its commen knowledge that Helen and Ella Fitzgerald shared the same father.

It was Harlem in the twenties. Such things happened.

—Anonymous

reply 213 12/18/2009

This thread makes me wish Helenesque was real.

—Anonymous

reply 214 12/18/2009

You can make your own, [R214]. Just mix equal parts Ronson lighter fluid, Windex, grain alcohol, and add a teaspoon of iodine.

—Anonymous

reply 215 12/18/2009

LIttle known fact:

I am the son of Helen Lawson.

Two days after I was born she left me swagged in velvet, cottan and cashmere on a barstool in Dallas.

I've never seen her since.

Three years ago the money came.

Don't matter now you know why my name is

—richwhiteboy

reply 216 12/18/2009

Impossible [R216].

Even Helen admits in her first autobioggraphy that a childhood accident involving a bannister and newel post left her incapable of bearing children.

Her gash has seen more baby batter than the Holland Tunnel has cars without the threat of becoming knocked up.

Hence, one of Helen's most famous quotes:

"Condoms are for pussies."

—Anonymous

reply 217 12/18/2009

It bothers me that Judy Garland gets so much sympathy when Helen gets nothing. There was Garland and Rooney but there was also Lawson and Manson. I know it's popular to deny that "ChiChi" Manson was THAT apple cheeked kid, one of the Bobbsey twins, but there it was. You have to admit that Sharon Tate was rather snotty as the teacher, Mrs Crabapple, and was pretty harsh.

—Anonymous

reply 218 12/18/2009

"cottan" Is that pronounced cot-tan or coe-tan? Wasn't that one of Helen's early experiments with polyfiber and nylon in the '70's?

Anyway, pretender-to-the-throne [R216], it is well known throughout the world that Miss Lawson couldn't bear children of her own. Someone even started a rumor that she was intersexed.

—Anonymous

reply 219 12/18/2009

The hermaphroditic rumor about Helen resulted from the odd little chuckle from Helen whenever someone told her to go fuck herself. It happened frequently enough that there are dozens of accounts of the grin, followed by a soft, whiskey soaked half-laugh, as opposed to the braying usually emitted by Helen after 3 drinks, or, after 10:15AM (they were usually the same).

—Anonymous

reply 220 12/18/2009

How the hell did Helen get that "A Christmas Carol" parody past the censors during her '69 special "In Came (Get it? Came?) Upon a Midnight Clear"? Did the censors not know what SPLOOGE was back then?

—Anonymous

reply 221 12/19/2009

bump

—Anonymous

reply 222 12/19/2009

The same year that Boris Karoff voiced "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas," Helen was in the cast of "How The Beaver Snatched Christmas" as Flicka Renee Clap-Tail. It was Rankin-Bass' last holiday special but it had a charming message and Helen brought a lot to the part of the frigid beaver Queen who dams off the North Pole. Ginger Rogers was originally supposed to play the part but she was side-lined by the discredited rumor she blew Nikita Khruschchev.

Helen's good friend Cardinal Francis Spellman penned the script.

—Anonymous

reply 223 12/19/2009

Sandra Bullock appearing in a Helen Lawson show?! Are you KIDDING?! Believe it or not, Helen tried out for Sandy's role in "Speed" and was of course turned down. She even went on the Joan Rovers show and lobbied to be cast! She is in the movie as "speed bump #2," the only pedestrian that Keanu Reeves actually aims for.

Helen is actually one of the few actors who are both in Speed and Speed 2. If you pause just right you can catch her as "dock bumper #1."

—Anonymous

reply 224 12/19/2009

I know it only lasted one season but Helen's early-60s sitcom, "I Married Helen," was one of the few that are actually still funny. Her interplay with Eartha Kitt as Beulah was priceless and her catch-phrase, "You missed a spot," wasn't over-used.

It's such a shame that Elmo Lincoln killed himself in front of the studio audience because he was the true Mr Lawson. Pinky Lee was OK but you never really believed he was hot for Helen. And poor Reta

Shaw was such a treasure as Helen's next door neighbor and it's a shame she ate herself to death afterward. The re-boot with Liberace, "Life With Lee," was a disaster and spurred Helen's vocal homophobia.

Did Liberace ever address working with Helen? I never thought to look it up since they only worked together for a few months before the Enquirer "outed" him. I wish they'd release those shows on DVD!

—Anonymous

reply 225 12/19/2009

Helen just wasn't right for sitcoms. Her 1970s entry, The Helen Tyler Lawson Show, didn't work at all. It was a mistake to have Helen punch a Salvation Army "Santa" in the credits plus everyone knew her middle name was Goebbels, not Tyler.

—Anonymous

reply 226 12/19/2009

One of Helen's costar's on the short-lived "Helen Tyler Lawson Show" was a young, arrogant Richard Gere, who taunted Helen mercilessly in front of cast and crew despite the fact that Lawson and Gere were screwing each others brain's out.

When Gere learned of Lawson's true middle name, Goebbels, he mocked her with it during one of their rowdy sex sessions in her dressing room. Helen, drunk as usual, shouted, "You can take that "Goebbels" and shove it up your ass. Matter of fact, I'll do it for you." Helen reached into a gerbil cage (a fan sent her a pet gerbil) and proceeded to shove that poor gerbil up Richard's ass.

The rest is history.

—Anonymous

reply 227 12/19/2009

I much prefer the Dusty Towne Sexy Holiday Special with special guest, Divine.

Dusty Towne blows Helen Lawson (and anyone else with a pulse) out of the water.

Offsite Link

Enjoy the videos and music you love, upload original content, and share it all with friends, family, and the world on YouTube.

www.youtube.com

—Pirini Sklerosa

reply 228 12/19/2009

How much do you think Tiger's paying Helen to keep her from coming forward?

—Anonymous

reply 229 12/19/2009

There is more talent in a Helen Lawson queef than in Dusty Towne's entire haggard body.

—Anonymous

reply 230 12/19/2009

I see that no talent whore herself is posting here as [R230].

Hey Helen--have another drink dear--it's cold outside!

—Neely

reply 231 12/19/2009

Neely, don't you have an alley to scream in?

—Anonymous

reply 232 12/19/2009

Neely O'Hara is appearing this Holiday season at the Lancaster Pennsylvania Dutch Apple Dinner Theater in a revival of "Tell Me, Darling".

Not great reviews, but the buffet of local cuisine is well worth the $11.95 price.

The lunchtime matinee is only $6.75!

Free refills on beverages.

—Anonymous

reply 233 12/19/2009

Miss Lawson is appearing daily in a remake of that perennial favorite Same Time, Next Year titled "See You Next Tuesday."

—Neely

reply 234 12/19/2009

bump, bump, bump, bump, bump! (5 whole bumps, which equates to the number of drinks Helen typically imbibes by nine AM.)

I sent her a case of scotch earlier in the momth. She sent me a thank-you note which reads as follows:

"Dear (insert name))(She really did forget to insert it on her form letter!)

I cannot thank you enough for your generous gift. I have never been one to drink more than one or two cocktails on special holidays like Xmas and Kwanzzah, but I'm sure I will be able to find a good home for the case of (insert brand name/type of alcohol). I actually sponsor an orphanage in the Phillipines. Those kids have every reason to be depressed and I think I will send the booze to them. I've always thought that world peace could be achieved if we all met up with an ever-so- slight buzz. If only the mother-fucking Muslims could see fit to take an occasional swig, like myself, in order to work toward the goal of mutual understanding. As always, my work as an onofficial ambassador is the closest thing to my heart.

As a return favor, do not forget to buy Helenesque for everyone in your family. It's the perfect Xmas gift. It's both a fragrance and a cocktail! Also, please watch my latest holiday special on the (insert name of television or radio network).

Remember, Helen loves you!!!

Merry Xmas, (insert name)!

—My name is Ted, BTW

reply 235 12/19/2009

OMG! Did you SEE Helen on Martha Stewart?! I couldn't believe she was actually pretending she knows how to cook! The look on Martha's face when Helen told her her recipe for Vodka Cream Sauce was priceless!

Martha: Vodka Cream Sauce is not a Martini with a little Baileys in it!

Helen: Shut up ya fucking dyke!

And then Helen went into the audience and kept heckling! Jake Gyllenhaal was going on about how he liked to cook and you could hear Helen yelling "Hey Martha! Hot glue a pair of BALLS for that pansy!" before security hauled her out.

—Anonymous

reply 236 12/19/2009

Years ago a friend of mine worked at Ladies' Home Journal and he told me some gossip about an interview Helen did for a cover story. The journalist who interviewed Helen asked her where she found the stamina to do her Christmas specials every year. Helen answered three things kept her going: unfiltered Chesterfields ("Filters are for pussies. I'm still breathin' ain't I?") Helenesque ("It keeps ya hoppin' and it's good for the circulation!") and Kegel excercises (They keep ya nice and tight down there.") When the interview was submitted for publication, the editor killed the story, much to Helen's displeasure.

—Anonymous

reply 237 12/19/2009

[R236], you forgot one more thing Helen said about Jake Gyllenhaal. She took one look at him backstage and exclaimed loud enough for all to hear: "If that doesn't suck cock then I don't know what the fuck does!" Gyllenhaal was reduced to tears and locked himself in the restroom.

—Anonymous

reply 238 12/19/2009

ROTFLMAO!!! [R236], you're killing me.

Does anyone know of any other Helen/Neely fights?

—null

reply 239 12/19/2009

Her performance of "Silent Night" (with accompanying vocals by the Symbionese Liberation Army) was hauntingly beautiful.

—Anonymous

reply 240 12/19/2009

I was a fan of her 1965 "Christmas A Go Go" special with Nancy Sinatra and Lou Christie.

—Anonymous

reply 241 12/19/2009

Didn't she do something really horrible to Lesley Gore?

—Anonymous

reply 242 12/19/2009

Yes, the Christmas a GoGo was a very special one.

Lou turned out to be quite a prima donna, he was very envious of the Courreges' frocks and white patent gogo boots the girls were to wear. He created a great fuss when he insisted on wearing eyeliner and a subtle rose gloss on his lips.

Helen paid him back by introducing his segment this way: And now as a special treat Lou Christie will sing The Little Hummer Boy. During the tree trimming segment she and Nancy tossed tinsel as she instructed Lou to "stick to the balls, silver bells".

—Anonymous

reply 243 12/19/2009

Yes, [R242]. Lesley's first and last live Christmas special, "Lesly Live! All Grown Up For Christmas!" aired on Dec 12, 1966.

Helen was scheduled to sing her Beatles-inspired holiday hit/marketing ploy "All I Want For Christmas Is Helenesque". However, as Neil Diamond was ending his tribute to racial harmony, a verbal fracas broke out offstage. Viewers were stunned (well, some were) to hear Helen bellow "That's it! It's my party & my pussy & you're out, Lesly. Where the fuck is a cock when you need one?"

CBS immediately began airing a "Beverly Hillbillies" repeat & Walter Paley later forced his wife Babe to return the case of Helenesque sent in apology.

—Anonymous

reply 244 12/19/2009

So many legends-- it's hard to separate the facts from the fantasy.

—Anonymous

reply 245 12/19/2009

Neil Diamond did get back at Helen. After she introduced him as "A famous Hebe, big surprise," Neil changed the words of his big hit to, "Helen, you'll be a woman eventually." Helen was quite sensitive about her moustache.

It's no accident that Helenesque removes hair. Up until his appearance in Helen's 1968 Christmas special, "Hark, the Helen Angels Sing" Wallace Shawn was typecast as a hunk! That show wasn't up to Helen's usual standards, but I don't think Love Canal has ever looked prettier. It's too bad the NAACP took issue with her pronunciation of Niagara. Who knew Richard Pryor was so sensitive?

—Anonymous

reply 246 12/20/2009

By way of apology, many years later Lawson sent Pryor a freebasing kit with gag exploding lighter.

—Anonymous

reply 247 12/20/2009

.

—Anonymous

reply 248 12/20/2009

bump!

—Anonymous

reply 249 12/20/2009

I can't believe we've gotten this far into the semi-annual Helen Lawson thread without discussing the latest Helen gossip: Her role (as well as Hong Kong star Maggie Cheung's) being totally cut out of the theatrical cut of Quentin Tarantino's "Inglourious Basterds."

Rod flippin' Taylor stayed in the picture, but she got cut. I'm betting he's Death #2 after Brittany Murphy before the year is out.

—Anonymous

reply 250 12/20/2009

bump! Bump! There's never enough Helen in the world!!!

—Anonymous

reply 251 12/20/2009

C'mon fellas, a legend like me deserves a longer thread.

And don't forget, buy Helenesque for Xmas. Anyone who tells you that it was banned in this country is a lyin' cocksucker. It's actually only the EU that's banned it. Those pussies over there said something about Helenesque "posing a significant health risk and even death for pregnant women, people with autoimmune diseases, the elderly..." Blah,blah,blah. Those same Europeans are responsible for Napoleon and Hitler! Such hypocritical bastards! And don't even get me started on the French!!

—Helen

reply 252 12/21/2009

One wishes that both Judy and Helen could have scheduled a Christmas Special together!

Think of those two powerhouses of entertainment giving their all for an hour, the merriment, the blood, sweat, toil, and tears shed to entertain us!

Alas, it was not to be. Negotiations were underway when a tragedy occurred. Judy found a teenage Joey Luft under the make-up table in Helen Lawson's dressing room on the set of A Child Is STILL Waiting, the sequel to Judy's A Child Is Waiting, all hell broke loose. It wasn't enough that Helen was doing a sequel to one of Judy's best performances. As the nurse Lurleene "Big'uns" McChord, Helen's role was different than Judy's in the original. It was the casting of Joey Luft--unbeknownst to Judy--as the boy with the learning disabilities but the magic tongue that was the last straw.

Finding the young Joey (18, playing 14) under the table "practicing his lines" on Helen's hoo-hoo caused a major shitstorm. Judy saw what was happening and tiptoed out of the room. She went to wardrobe and crapped in the 44DDD bra made for Helen's character and then hit Helen with it so severely, Helen still retains the impression of a brahook on her temple.

Poor Joey was traumatized for life!

—Hedda Lettuce

reply 253 12/21/2009

Have you heard about Helen's rumored Duets With The Greats Special? In it Helen will sing duests with the departed greats of soing, a la Natalie Cole and Nat King Cole.

The planned duet with Frankie Laine singing Rawhide has given me anticipatory chills. It will feature them singing together via the magic of technology, and each time Frankie utters Rawhide, a clip of Helen cracking the whip at some chorus boys in assless chaps will be spliced in. Magic.

—Anonymous

reply 254 12/21/2009

Love it, [R253]. Are you the Hedda Lettuce?

—Anonymous

reply 255 12/21/2009

Didn't George Maharis also appear in "Christmas A Go Go"?

—Anonymous

reply 256 12/21/2009

When is the proper occasion to wear "Helenesque"?

—Miss Manners

reply 257 12/21/2009

R 256 Yes, George Maharis was also a guest. Lou Christie and he shared a dressing room and Helen causticly cracked that it looked like Maharis had taken a detour from Route 66 onto the Hersey Highway. Even though she was soused as usual, she may have been onto something. During the Christmas in Palm Beach Medley Lou sang a sultry version of The Boy Lazed on the Veranda while copiously rubbing coconut oil onto Maharis' thighs. Helen barged into the scene laughing nastily and screeching out a few bars of I've Got A Loverly Bunch of Coconuts. Of course the show was live, the screen went black, and the next thing you saw and heard was a Kraft commercial for festive pimento loaf.

—Anonymous

reply 258 12/21/2009

As a young Jewish child growing up in a midwestern town you can imagine my joy in 1976 when CBS announced that - in addition to her annual Christmas Special - Helen would also be starring in "Helen's Hanukkah Hullabaloo."

The idea was inspired by her short-lived affair with Sammy Davis Jr, which was disastrously kaput by the time the live special was scheduled to be shot. In hindsight someone should have known to cancel the show before the big night.

If they had, the country might have been spared an hour of some of the most antisemitic content ever to hit celluloid since Leni Riefenstahl...most notably Helen's ad-libbed Hanukkah song medley performed with a stunned Barry Manilow.

My memory is not so great but I seem to remember lyrics such as: "Dreidel Dreidel Dreidel, Sammy's A Lousy Lay," "Away In Manger, The Jews Killed Christ Dead," and "Oh Holy-Caust, The Jews Should Quit Their Whining."

Perhaps the worst, however, was the skating/tapdancing finale with Helen and Sammy, in which Helen was supposed use the choreography to spell out "Happy Hanukkah!" with her skates in the ice.

Somehow she added an extra letter and positioned herself so that the spot light focused on Sammy unwittingly tap-dancing his heart out atop the letters "KKK."

Shockingly, twenty years later she tried to pull the same stunt on "Jello Brand Gelatin Presents Bill Cosby's Quaint Kwanzaa." But luckily an attentive Debbie Allen successfully tripped her mid-lutz.

—Anonymous

reply 259 12/21/2009

Yes, [R256]. He sang "We're Gonna Have a Wing-Wang Time", his "hit".

—Anonymous

reply 260 12/21/2009

> When is the proper occasion to wear "Helenesque"?

An autopsy, [R257].

—Ekaterina of Yuriatin

reply 261 12/21/2009

Helen is supposedly still pissed at Obama for not selecting her to sing at the inauguation. A Hollywood insider friend of mine, attending one of Helen's recent cocktail parties,overheard her saying, " Well, la-di-da, Aretha "Queen of Soul Food (or any other food)" Franklin got to sing about her cunt. I would'a offered MINE to Pres. Obama. I've never been afraid of a big dick. And don't get me started about Aretha's shitty hat! Who the fuck picked it out? Stevie Wonder??

—Anonymous

reply 262 12/21/2009

[R258], if I recall correctly, what she said was "Route 66? More like Route 69!"

—Anonymous

reply 263 12/22/2009

bump for more!

—Anonymous

reply 264 12/22/2009

I don't do drugs but swore I was hallucinating during Helen's 1991 Holiday Special.

This was the one where she had Jesus Jones on (no doubt thinking their name had something to do with then holiday) and sang "Right Here, Right Now" very suggestively.

Then she had the Divinyls on singing "I Touch Myself."

And then she had on as many of the troops from the recent Gulf War as possible and, paraphrasing Dorothy Parker, said, "If all you could be laid end to end - I'd be one happy woman."

Later that week, TV Guide gave this special a "Jeers."

—Anonymous

reply 265 12/22/2009

I'm really surprised that no one has mentioned Helen's infamous appearance on Dick Clark's "Rockin'New Year's Eve". Originally meant to sing one song ("So many men, so little time") to the crowd in Times Square , Helen ended up having to take over Dick's hosting role when he became sick from Helenesque, which Helen had sworn to Dick had youth-restoring qualities (not that Dick really needed to look any younger).

I was very young at the time, but I remember my grandparents being indignant. Can anyone fill me in on some of the things Helen did or said?

Thanx.

—Anonymous

reply 266 12/23/2009

Well, [R266], Ryan Seacrest was in the crowd reporting. He said something about the crystal ball going down at midnight, and Helen said "Kid, you're the expert in going down. Ain't that right, Dick?" Dick Clark choked and fell off the building.

—Lola Heatherton

reply 267 12/23/2009

That Norelco Christmas commercial with Santa riding the shaver through the foam/snow was an alternate version. The original version wasn't a cartoon or animated. It featured Helen Lawson as Mrs. Claus, riding the Norelco shaver. Helen insisted that the shaver vibrate, so it would be more authentic, and a Harley-Davidson motorcycle engine with mufflers was mounted inside.The commercial was re-done because Helen refused to wear any underwear and kept hiking her skirt up.

—Anonymous

reply 268 12/23/2009

[R266] That was NYE 1990. Dick Clark had decided to really get with it in an attempt to infuse relevancy to his aging image. He'd a New Year's Hip-Hop Rockin' Eve Show starring some of that year's happening artists. After he fell, Helen assumed the double role of hostess and co-performer with that year's exploding artists.

Right before the ball dropped, she performed with MC Hammer wearing identical parachute pants and whenever MC Hammer shouted out 'you can't touch dis' Helen would grope his crotch and yell 'I would but where the hell is it, Pencil Dick?"

That wasn't the most scandalous part of the evening. I think that your grandparents indignation was sparked by Helen's song post-midnight with Vanilla Ice. While Vanilla was singing the hook for Icelce Baby, Helen got behind him, pushed him over at the waist, and was adlibbing "You're getting your salad tossed tonight, bitch!" as she humped his ass and spanked him.

—Anonymous

reply 269 12/23/2009

I don't think it's a coincidence that this year's special was supposed to feature guests Farrah Fawcett, David Carradine, Brittany Murphy, and an undisclosed "very special guest and music icon." And Billy Mays had just signed on to be the pitchman for "Helenesque."

Someone is clearly trying to ruin Helen's career! Neely O'Hara has a solid alibi but rumors say Elaine Stritch has been in a suspiciously good mood all year!

This year all the proceeds from the special were supposed to go to Helen's charity, "Helen Wheels: Feeding Broadway's Legends." I noticed the bell-ringers have been really aggressive this year. One tried to bite me when I said I didn't have any change!

—Anonymous

reply 270 12/23/2009

Well, kids, the big day is almost here. I'll be on Howard Stern tonight, so make sure to tune in. I'll be reminiscing about so many things that you cocksuckers failed to mention in this thread.

Remember, kids, Helen loves you all!

Don't forget to buy "Helenesque" for everyone in your life. Macy's still has a ton in stock, I've learned. Buy,buy,buy!!

Well, I gotta go for now. I have a man and a pitcher of martinis waiting for me.

—I"m even wearing my red Xmas crotchless panties. It"s one of my traditions

reply 271 12/24/2009

She hurt the Carpenter's feelings when Karen overheard Helen bawling, "I thought the skinny one was a suppository and had to pull 'er outta my ass, haaaah! The other one ran out screamin'."

—Lola

reply 272 12/25/2009

Helen's in Branson because she heard they closed the Roy Rogers Dale Evans Museum and she wants a chance to get Trigger for her rumpus room.

—Anonymous

reply 273 12/25/2009

Bump for Helen's New Year's Eve Extravaganza!!Is Debbie Reynolds available?

—Anonymous

reply 274 12/29/2009

here's more

—Anonymous

reply 275 12/29/2009

"Is Debbie Reynolds available?"

That's like asking if the sun rises in the east.

—Anonymous

reply 276 12/29/2009

There is a rumor that Helen's New Year's Eve Special will be livestreamed due to the "sensitive content" of the performances,which the networks are too nervous to broadcast. Even the cable stations are balking. What a time for DL to be on blackout. Now that DL is back, what have you bitches heard?

—Anonymous

reply 277 12/30/2009

Helenesque is on sale at Walgreens! $2.99 a pint. Plus fire insurance.

—Neeley O''Hara

reply 278 01/02/2010

Can you buy "Helenesque" online, or do you have to go to the hardware store?

—Anonymous

reply 279 01/12/2010

I don't know of any legit online source of "Helenesque". The major shippers (USPS, UPS, FedEx) in the U.S. have banned shipments of "Helenesque" due to it's volatile nature. It's much safer to mix onsite(home, bar, nightclub, backstage at the theater).

—Anonymous

reply 280 01/13/2010

I heard that the Nigerian terrorist who tried to blow up the plane landing in Detroit, had purchased "Helenesque" at the Duty Free shop in Amsterdam. Could there be a connection?

—Anonymous

reply 281 01/13/2010

Miss Lawson was slated to present Betty White's lifetime achievement award at the SAG awards. Why did Sandra Bullock present instead?

—Anonymous

reply 282 01/24/2010

How does one save great threads like this one?

—Anonymous

reply 283 03/03/2010

bump

—Anonymous

reply 284 03/05/2010

> How does one save great threads like this one?

Click on the star next to the headline. It will turn gold and be saved in your thread watcher to the right.

—Anonymous

reply 285 03/06/2010

Thread Closed.

A Note from Muriel

DataLounge will close permanently on July 31, 2026

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